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Thatcher dashes hopes of spring tax cuts

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Prime Minister yesterday killed the reports that she expects taxes to be reduced in the Budget next spring.

She said she still hoped that there might be tax reductions before the end of the present Parliament, but in interviews for television she showed some anxiety about the problems of balancing revenue and expenditure beyond this Parliament, as the cost of maintaining a growing population of old people increases.

Interviewed for Independent Television News, Mrs Margaret Thatcher contemplated the raising of tax thresholds and allowances and increasing revenue duties next spring to keep pace with inflation, but nothing more.

"Over and above that I think it will be very difficult this April," she said. "I am not over-optimistic."

That is the majority view of Cabinet ministers after their first collective discussion on next year's expenditure last week when they agreed to keep the overall level at £126,400m as planned.

Although some of them suspected that Treasury ministers were being too gloomy about the prospects for growth and higher revenue, few believed any room would be left for tax cuts and several agree with Mr John Biffen, Leader of

the Commons, who has publicly raised the possibility of increasing taxation.

Nothing Mrs Thatcher said yesterday suggested that for the rest of the Parliament lower tax rates were more than "high priority", as they were conditionally described in the Conservative manifesto.

There appears now to have been a Cabinet decision to confront the crisis of public provision which it avoided discussing last year when it shelved a Central Policy Review Staff report.

It appears that no forecasts have yet been prepared for ministers of the sums that will be needed to support the growing legion of pensioners, although the population forecasts are stark. The number of people aged 65 and over, with their greater need for sheltered accommodation and home helps, will double to a million by the end of the century.

The working age population, which must pay taxes to support them, will increase only slightly from 30.5m to 32 million.

The question is whether the minimal provision which a civilized Government would wish to afford for the state's dependants will cost more than the yield of taxation at the levels now thought reasonable. What is new is that ministers

have decided to collect the evidence and to find a solution for the next Government, whatever its political colour, to act upon.

In her ITN interview, Mrs Thatcher said that she was always concerned about the long-term problem of public spending because of its natural tendency to rise.

"By the longer term I mean really the next Parliament and beyond that, and by the time people like me are old age pensioners there are going to be rather more than there are now. We are all going to live longer, and more young people are going to want to stay in education longer and we have to look at the burden of both those ends on the working population, because they have to earn the money, they have to feel that they are being left with enough of their own earnings."

Asked by the interviewer, Mr Glyn Mathias if there would therefore be a fundamental reassessment of state benefits, such as unemployment benefit, the Prime Minister replied: "You always have to look at the burden of your social services on the working population, because everything comes from them. So of course any Government has to look at the pressures upon them."

OFT chief refuses to drop Stock Exchange action

By Philip Robinson and Derek Harris

Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, indicated last night that the Government might have to pass legislation if it wished him to drop the court case against the Stock Exchange.

Sir Gordon said a statutory order would not stop him. "If the Government is thus forced into primary legislation to secure the Stock Exchange's exemption it will be the more potentially embarrassing route because it would have to pass through both Houses of Parliament," he said.

His warning came as the Stock Exchange won an adjournment of the legal action brought by the Office of Fair Trading alleging it operates restrictive practices.

The move is a further step towards an out-of-court settlement with the Government, which says it will stop the action in exchange for reforms of the Exchange rule book.

The Exchange will drop minimum charges on stock and share dealings and allow non-members on to the Stock Exchange Council and the boards of member firms.

But it has preserved the separate capacity system of buying and selling shares under which investors can buy only through brokers and jobbers, deal only with brokers.

In his first public statement since the formal announcement, Sir Gordon said: "It clearly leaves intact a number of provisions in the rules that restrict entry to the market."

On commission charges he said: "It is uncertain how soon and to what extent the ending of such rules will be followed by brokers being free to negotiate commissions."

There is increasing scepticism over the need for a three-year phasing when a similar exercise in Toronto took only six

months and in New York 18 months.

But Sir Nicholas Goodison, Stock Exchange chairman, said after the court hearing yesterday: "To criticize the Government for accepting the Stock Exchange's proposal of a maximum period of just over three years for this dismantling is ridiculous in the light of the 17 years which it took the Securities and Exchange Commission to take similar action in the US."

Sir Nicholas will spell out the changes to senior partners of Exchange firms at a private meeting today. Yesterday most were praising him for what they see as a sensible and successful conclusion to the case.

Others, however, questioned how a system of negotiated commissions could work with the present system of separate capacity.

City secrets, page 13

Adams told 'no jail visits to terrorists'

By John Witherow and Richard Ford

The Home Office has forbidden Mr Gerry Adams, Provisional Sinn Féin MP for Belfast West, to visit IRA prisoners in mainland jails, including some of his constituents convicted of terrorist offences.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, said it "would be wrong to allow Mr Adams to visit because he is a member of an organization which openly espouses the use of violence for political ends."

During his two days in London this week Mr Adams expressed a wish to visit some 40 to 50 IRA prisoners to highlight their position and to press for "repatriation" to Northern Ireland.

Most are category A prisoners, which means they are kept under strict security and allowed monthly visits only by close friends or relatives.

Under standing orders MPs are normally allowed access to prisoners, although it has sometimes been limited to their constituents.

Leading article, page 11

Envoy had several lovers in Israel

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Miss Rhona Ritchie, the first secretary at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv who passed secrets to an Egyptian diplomat with whom she was having an affair, had a number of lovers - including an Israeli government official - during her stay in Israel before she joined the embassy, the report of the Security Commission into the case disclosed yesterday.

Commenting on the report in a Commons written reply yesterday, the Prime Minister said there was no evidence that Miss Ritchie had made any disclosure of material of a highly graded confidential nature.

The commission had confirmed that the damage to the country's interests from her disclosures was not great, and lay in the breach of confidence and untrustworthiness that they implied rather than in the nature of the disclosures themselves, Mrs Thatcher said.

But the Prime Minister said the case illustrated that people in the public services who embarked on relationships such as that between Miss Ritchie and the diplomat needed to be aware of the dangers and



Rhona Ritchie: vulnerable through relationships

pressures to which they were made vulnerable.

Miss Ritchie, aged 31, joined the Foreign Office in 1979 and was posted to Israel in August, 1980, although she did not join the Embassy till July, 1981.

The Security Service learnt in March 1982 that she had been having an affair with Rifaa al Anzari, her opposite number at the Egyptian Embassy, and that she had been passing secret documents to him. She was recalled to London, admitted the disclosures and was subsequently given a suspended nine-month prison sentence.

Arabs under curfew for Jewish ceremony

From Christopher Walker, Hebron

While the 70,000 Arabs of Hebron remained confined to their homes yesterday under Israeli curfew, two Cabinet ministers presided over a sombre ceremony near the centre of the eerily deserted city to commemorate the 1929 Arab massacre of 67 members of the Jewish community.

Crack Israeli marksmen ringed the area and Arab families stared down resentfully from the upper storeys of their homes as Dr Joseph Burg, the Interior Minister, and Professor Yuval Ne'eman, the Science Minister, arrived at the hilltop cemetery.

A spokesman for Professor Ne'eman, leader of the extreme right-wing Tehiya Party, explained that the minister had decided to attend the annual ceremony in person to express his solidarity with the Jewish settlers of Hebron, who had been "falsely accused" of killing Arabs earlier in the week.

The decision to stage the ceremony in the tense aftermath of Tuesday's attack on Hebron's Islamic University, which killed three Palestinians and wounded 33 others, was bitterly condemned by the deposed Arab mayor, Mr Mustapha Natche, who has been barred by the Israelis from visiting the survivors in hospital.

"It is both insensitive and provocative while the Arabs are subjected to collective punishment for a crime in which we were the victims," he said. "It seems the Israelis want to switch attention from what the settlers are doing now."

Mr Natche pointed from his window to the empty city where the only people on the streets were squads of Israeli paratroopers and the occasional Jewish settler carrying an automatic rifle. "When Jews are attacked here, we pay the price and when Arabs are attacked there, they pay the price," he said.

Continued on back page, col 5

Israel tells Phalange to quit barracks

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Israel's long-standing alliance with the right-wing Lebanese Phalange militia appeared to be on the verge of breaking apart last night after Israeli troops ordered the militia to close down one of its barracks in southern Lebanon.

The Phalange, a Christian private army, fought alongside the Israelis during the siege of West Beirut and then massacred hundreds of Palestinian civilians in the city.

Thousands of Christian Maronite villagers in the area, encouraged by the Phalange party's political headquarters in Beirut, burned tyres on country roads east of Sidon and shouted abuse at Israeli soldiers who had ordered the Phalange out of their quarters by sundown.

According to the Israeli Army, the militiamen failed to "cooperate" with their troops. Phalange officials in Beirut, who said that they had also been ordered to close down a second barracks and a party political office in the region, suspect that the Israelis want to hand the military bases over to Major Saad Haddad's private army before withdrawing to the Awali River.

There was considerable consternation among the militia officers in Beirut that the Israelis were about to abandon them.

Christian gunmen wandered the roads around the village of Kfar Falous and in the nearby town of Sarba. Christian villagers were last night reported to have built earth barricades around the church and the local Phalangist barracks to prevent Israeli troops from approaching.

Women standing outside the Kfar Falous barracks kept chanting "Kireb (Phalange) Continued on back page, col 2

Telephone bills to rise by 2.9%

By Clive Cookson

Telephone bills will rise by an average of 2.9 per cent in November when British Telecom ends its two-year price freeze.

Telecom yesterday sent details of the proposed increases to the Post Office Users National Council, the consumer watchdog. They were foreshadowed in last week's Telecom annual report, which showed an unexpected 20 per cent decline in 1982/83 profit to £365m.

The proposals give Telecom an average increase of 3.2 per cent from residential customers and 2.7 per cent from businesses. The basic unit fee for local and trunk calls is going up by 2.3 per cent, while quarterly rental charges rise by 4.6 per cent.

Telecom makes a big loss on residential rentals - estimated at £323m last year - and it intends to push up those charges faster than those for telephone calls.

The international division, the most profitable and fastest growing part of the corporation, has the smallest increases, with an average of one per cent added to telephone calls abroad. Calls to many parts of the world will actually become slightly cheaper.

Sir George Jefferson, chairman of British Telecom, said: "By November prices generally, as measured by the Retail Price Index, will have risen by about 12 per cent over the two years since our last set of major changes. What we are proposing now is only a quarter of the level of the RPI increase."

Telecom needed the additional revenue, he said, to meet the government's financial objectives and to sustain a high level of investment in equipment.

Colombo acts to appease mobs

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

Political parties advocating the partition of Sri Lanka will be banned, President J R Jayawardene announced yesterday as news emerged of a second massacre in Colombo's main jail.

In an attempt to appease the mobs which have attacked Tamil homes and businesses, the President declared that those seeking partition will "lose their civil rights and cannot hold office, cannot practise professions, join movements or organisations".

Mr Jayawardene said in a nationwide broadcast: "The government has now decided that the time has come to accede to the clamour and the request, the natural request, of the Sinhala people that we do not allow the movement for division to grow any more."

The Tamil United Liberation Front, the only party representing Tamils in Parliament, supports partition. A government spokesman disclosed yesterday that 17 more prisoners were killed on Wednesday when inmates forced their way out of cells in Wilikula prison and attacked Tamils being detained under the National Security Act.

Among those killed was Dr S. Rajasundaram, secretary of the Gandhian movement in Sri Lanka. The movement receives support from the World Council of Churches and other charities to run refugee camps in the north of the island.

Earlier this week, a magistrate's inquest opened into 35 deaths which took place in the Colombo jail on Monday.

The Government also announced that three Sinhalese prisoners were killed in predominantly-Tamil Jaffna, in the far north of the island, on Tuesday.

Yesterday, there was an ugly incident on a train running from the hill town of Kandy to the capital. A group of assumed Tamils, who the Government said were carrying hand bombs and guns, were discovered and killed by Chusengs.

According to a witness on board the train a young man was pursued from carriage to carriage and pummeled and beaten until he died naked and bleeding.

OSLO: A Norwegian woman just returned from a fortnight in Sri Lanka described seeing 20 Tamils burned to death in Colombo when a mob stopped their minibus and poured petrol over it (AP reports).

The mob set light to the vehicle and blocked the doors to prevent the passengers escaping.

Britons safe: Hundreds of Britons here last night still reported to be confined to their hotels and surrounding beaches (IPA reports). But four operators said they were in no immediate danger.

Crash orphan: Howard Goddard aged 12, attending the funeral yesterday at St Mary's Church, Ickleton, Cambridgeshire, of his father, mother, brother and sister, all killed in the Scillies helicopter tragedy. Funeral of victims, page 2



Our position as Leader is in keeping with the quality of the blend



BELL'S
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Number One
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£5,000m repairs bill for million 10-year-old homes

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

A million council homes built as recently as 10 years ago are in urgent need of repair and renovation at a cost which could exceed £5,000m, a survey to be published in the autumn will say.

A report is being produced by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities which indicates serious structural problems in council flats and houses constructed in the 1960s and 1970s by non-traditional methods. This latest survey of council housing comes after a report published two weeks ago that suggested 500,000 homes erected in the 1940s and 1950s require repair work of £5,000m.

But the real cost of rectifying many of the mistakes made in the expansionist housing policies of 20 years ago could be much higher than £5,000m. The association has identified 400,000 homes, mainly of the system built type, that need extensive remedial work, but Mr Ted Cattle, its housing research director, said it believes as many as 1,000,000 are affected.

Mr Cattle believes that many authorities are considering "wholesale demolition" of homes in the North, the Midlands and parts of London. Councils such as Manchester, Leeds, Wakefield, Sheffield, Hull, Nottingham and London

are either considering demolition or have started already.

In Leeds, demolition started on the Hunslet Grange complex, south of the city centre, at the beginning of the year. The 1,249 maisonettes and flats were built about 12 years ago by the Yorkshire Development Group, a consortium of local authorities including Leeds, Nottingham, Hull and Sheffield.

The authorities employed what is known as a "deck" system made by asphalt and concrete which cracks in severe weather. Water then penetrates parts of the building through the hairline fractures causing damp problems.

It has long been recognised that damp and condensation are big faults in system building. In the case of Hunslet Grange, condensation problems were exacerbated because the homes were originally designed for gas warm-air heating.

The Roman Point disaster made the authorities think again and install electric heating, but the system was not powerful enough to combat condensation and damp, and was also extremely expensive for the tenants.

In London, the borough of Southwark has asked the Government for £45m to demolish and rebuild the Bonamy Estate, Rotherhithe, which was completed 17 years ago.

The 900 flats and maisonettes were constructed on a concrete raft basis which has buckled and placed pressure on party walls. These are now badly cracked and let in water. The estimated cost of complete repair and renovation would be as much as demolition and rebuilding. A public meeting of the tenants showed that most favoured razing the estate and rebuilding.

Mr Cattle estimates that so far 10,000 homes have had to be demolished and many thousands more are under threat.

The report being prepared is part of a series. It is expected to be published in October. Work has been completed on a study into timber-frame homes, which were the subject of television investigation six weeks ago. It will be published in September.

Similar problems are believed to exist in Scotland, although the extent is difficult to estimate because no government figures are available on housing conditions. Before the election a select committee on Scottish affairs began a study into damp problems. Although no statistics were published, the committee suggested that 20 per cent of local authority homes in Scotland were affected by damp.

Health union leaders yesterday rejected the Government's plan to ban strikes by nurses and other medical workers. They predicted that it would be applied to other workers in essential public services.

Mr Rodney Bickert, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said: "It is the old tactic of don't join the union and we'll pay you a penny an hour more."

The TUC health services committee decided against a boycott of the pay review body, which rules out industrial action by key NHS staff in return for salary comparability with private industry. But the unions will seek clarification of the Government's intentions towards existing collective bargaining machinery.

The Royal College of Nursing, which is not affiliated to the TUC, welcomed Mrs Thatcher's announcement. "We are pleased that the special position of nurses within the NHS who have a commitment not to strike has been recognized by the Prime Minister. The college forbids members to strike."

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, gave a warning yesterday that the Government would not necessarily be bound by the recommendations of the pay body if it proposes to cover nurses, midwives and other professional staff. Speaking on BBC radio one, he added: "The Government has to make a judgment on the national interest."

At that point, arguing that for the past 10 years the Cabinet had not met in full the recommendations of a similar review body for doctors and dentists, while not asking them to give up their right to strike.

Mr Fowler said later that the Government was committed to establishing the review body "without delay". He insisted that he would "reserve the right to exclude groups that do resort to industrial action."

"My belief is that the vast majority of nurses and people covered by this pay review body will not take industrial action. If there was unofficial action by a few, that would not invalidate the arrangement for the many."

The Institute of Directors said yesterday that the move did "not constitute a denial of the right to strike. It is a recognition of the fact that the community have a right to expect the maintenance of an essential service."

The British Medical Association yesterday criticised the Government strongly over the present round of emergency spending cuts that are causing anguish in hospitals.

Dr John Gavard, secretary of the association said after a delegation had seen Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services: "What sticks in my throat is that this Government must have known what the situation was and could have seen these cuts coming."

"I could understand a new Government coming into power, assessing the books for the first time, and then making the cuts."

Dr Gavard said the cuts were leading to ward closures, reductions in services, consultants not being appointed and an unacceptably high number of newly qualified medical students not being offered pre-registration posts.

One English health authority, which he declined to name, was considering the temporary closure of the child psychiatry unit and a post-natal ward, converting several in-patient wards into five-day-a-week wards, and temporarily closing an entire hospital to meet its share of the savings.

Figures disclosed at the meeting suggested that the new targets, to be released in a

headgear and a fifth did not use them when they were fitted.

Large insurance companies said yesterday that they did not insist on riders covered by their personal accident policies wearing headgear.

Half of the riders in the survey had a fall in the year before replying, and nearly a tenth had to go to hospital. Almost all who fell wore headgear which hardly ever came off if the strap was used.

The results were based on half of 6,000 replies to questionnaires sent by the magazine to 100,000 riders. Almost a tenth said that no harness or chin-strap was fitted to their

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Decision to give parents choice on the cane criticized as unworkable

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Parents are to be allowed to choose whether to punish their children with the cane in schools, but the decision has been criticized as unworkable.

The Government's decision that two forms of discipline will operate within the same school and some fear that that will be a problem.

The National Association of School Teachers' union, which has 250,000 members, said that it was "deeply disappointed" by the decision. The union's secretary, Sir Keith Joseph, said that it was "unworkable" and that it would "create chaos".

Mr Scott, of the Society for the Abolition of Corporal Punishment, said that the decision was "unworkable" and that it would "create chaos".

Mr Scott said he would write to Strasbourg "in the name of the British Government of European Court ruling had already been delayed months".

Peter Dawson, general secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers, which has 100,000 members, said: "It is not possible to have two disciplinary systems operating in the same school."

Public schools urged to open their doors

From Our Education Correspondent, Nottingham

Independent schools, such as Winchester, Redwood and St. Mary's College, are urged to open their doors to the handicapped and to the poor.

Mr Tim Devlin, director of the Independent Schools Information Council, said that independent schools should not receive the same state subsidies as state schools. He said that independent schools should be able to charge fees and that they should be able to accept pupils from all backgrounds.

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Spate over private use of scanner

A chief denied yesterday that private patients were given up to £200 a time to use the queue for treatment on the new £1m cancer scanner at Broomfield hospital, Chelmsford, Essex, after a dispute was opened by Princess Anne yesterday and an argument was held when senior officials that cash from private patients could be used to benefit NHS Health Service users.

The "queue jumping" argument was on the eve of the visit of Mrs Rita Bennett, a fund-raiser for the NHS, who could use the machine.

Bennett, who raised £200 to help to buy the scanner, said: "I did not spend four long years waiting on this so that private patients could use it while the NHS waited."

Mr Bennett, one of a large number of voluntary helpers organized fund-raising to pay for the machine, claimed that money raised "hiring-out" the scanner was not being spent on extra staff.

Beware of sex traps, nannies told

Young girls seeking jobs as nannies were told by a judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to beware of sex traps.

Judge Lipfield said: "It should be more widely appreciated that young girls who advertise in quite respectable magazines can be waylaid and mistreated in the manner of the young girl in this case."

Michael Mohammed, aged 38, builder, of East Barnet Road, New Barnet, was jailed for four years for two sex assaults on a nanny, aged 19. He had pleaded not guilty.

The judge said: "I would be failing in my duty if I did not sentence you to a substantial term to deter others like you."

Mr David Owen-Jones, for the prosecution, said the girl advertised in *The Lady*. Mohammed promised that if she got the job working for his sister, she would go to Miami and the Caribbean.

The girl said that she was taken to Heathrow airport to meet Mohammed's sister. He insisted she had wine and brandy he booked her into an hotel and committed sexual acts.

Social services inquiry on baby's death

Welfare authorities are to be asked to inquire into the death of a girl, 15 months, killed by her mother, who was held at Winchester Crown Court yesterday.

The girl, her younger sister and older sister, had been placed on a non-accidental injury register by social services.

Mr Justice Davies said that he had been taken from her mother she would probably be alive now. He asked if inquiry had been made into decisions taken by the welfare services. "In a case of this great public concern felt as to whether there has been any error of decision," he said.

Mr Stephen O'Malley, for the prosecution, said an inquiry had been ordered but could not be proceeded with.

until the outcome of the case was known.

Mrs Christine Mitchell, aged 27, of Howe Road, Gosport, Hampshire, admitted the manslaughter of her daughter, Emma. She was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment with 12 months of the sentence suspended for two years.

Mr O'Malley said Mrs Mitchell had three children aged three years, 15 months and three months. She first married in 1975 and when her first daughter was born Bradford Social Services had been concerned over the way the child was looked after.

In November, 1980, she married a Royal Navy sailor and lived in married quarters at Plymouth. Emma was born there.

Mrs Mitchell became pregnant again and the family moved to married quarters in Gosport, where social services visited the family and all three children were put on a non-accidental injury register.

On November 20 last year Mrs Mitchell knocked on a neighbour's door and said Emma had fallen downstairs. The child was limp and blue and attempts at resuscitation failed.

Bringing was seen on the child's face and forehead and there were two fractures of the skull. Later Mrs Mitchell admitted she had thrown the child down in annoyance.

Her other children had been taken into care by Hampshire County Council and were to be made wards of court.

Wife used husband's gun gift to kill him

By Craig Seton

A woman described by a former Queen's equestrian as "very warm, friendly and welcoming" was jailed for two years yesterday for killing her husband with a shotgun he had given her as a Christmas present.

Mrs Jennifer Davis, aged 44, denied murder but admitted the manslaughter, on the grounds of diminished responsibility, of her husband Christopher, aged 40, a former captain in the Gloucestershire Regiment.

She shot him in the study of their five-bedroom country house at Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, after a row over some missing sherry.

Mr Justice Brown, at Bristol Crown Court, said he accepted that Mrs Davis was of the highest character but added: "The court has to bear in mind that what you did was an act of appalling violence."

Character evidence was given by Sir Ian Heathcote-Amory, a former equestrian to the Queen and Deputy Lieutenant of Devon, and Mr Raymond Etherington-Smith, former ambassador to Vietnam and the Sudan.

Sir Ian described Mrs Davis as "a highly respected person, a refined person, devoted to her family."

The court was told that Mrs Davis had married for the second time in 1971. Her new husband was still a serving officer, who became an estate agent.

Mr David Webster, for the prosecution, said Mrs Davis was determined to make her second marriage a success.

But she had told a friend: "He told me he had another woman." She had also told a friend that her husband wanted to leave her but she did not want to let him go and that three months before the killing her husband had begun to be curt with her.



Mrs Jennifer Davis: Row over sherry

When her husband replied curtly to her she asked why he was being so sarcastic and he replied: "I am giving you some of your own medicine."

After the friends left Mrs Davis followed her husband into his study. Mr George Carman, QC, for Mrs Davis, said her husband gave her "a look full of hatred which split out her despair."

Mrs Davis, the mother of two children from each of her marriages, left the room and returned with a shotgun.



Mr Christopher Davis

Moves for limit on annual entry to Bar attacked

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Moves to restrict recruitment to the Bar are disclosed in this week's *New Law Journal*. They are seen as part of an attempt by the Bar to maintain its homogeneity and to exclude non-conformists.

An article by Walter Merricks, a solicitor and journalist, says that proposals are circulating among the senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar. They suggest an annual entry limit of 600.

The practising Bar, it is said, is capable of absorbing into chambers no more than about 250 to 300 entrants a year. Allowing for a drop-out rate of 50 per cent and overall target of 600 is considered reasonable.

This year's limit on admissions to the Inns of Court School of Law is 950, but around 700 would be entrants are taking up pupillage.

The search is on for additional filters on entry. One plan is to ask tutors to give a candid assessment of a person's character and suitability for practice. Questions might include: "Inquires about how well the candidate is able to mix with others from different social and financial backgrounds."

Until recently, the Bar maintained an open entry policy allowing the marker to decide who should succeed or fail. No barriers were placed in the way of anyone wishing to qualify, as a barrister provided he or she could pass the examination.

Mr Merricks says there is growing concern in legal education circles at the plans. "What is now feared is that the Bar could become an even more closed and inward-looking profession than at present; that for those with the wrong background, the wrong accents, the wrong face, the wrong attitudes, becoming a barrister will be well-nigh impossible."

Zoo cleared on one count

Mr John Aspinall's zoo company was cleared yesterday of blame for the death of Mr Brian Stocks, the head keeper who was mauled by a Siberian tiger in 1980.

The judge directed the jury at Canterbury Crown Court to acquit the company, Howlett and Port Lympe Estates, of failing to protect Mr Stocks in his job. However, the company still faces a Health and Safety Executive summons over the death five weeks later of Mr Robert Wilson, a second keeper killed by the same animal.

It would be "wholly dangerous" to proceed with the prosecution's allegation that Mr Stocks was allowed to enter the tiger's enclosure at Howlett's zoo, in Kent, alone, contrary to safety regulations, Judge Rooke, QC, said.

Evidence had raised the possibility that the tiger, Zeya, might have leapt a fence. But he told the jury not to let his direction influence them over the allegations that Mr Wilson died because the 10ft 2in fence was too low for safety. The hearing continues today.

Writs dropped

The Church of Scientology has discontinued six libel actions it started against the Metropolitan Police Commissioner over a 1968 report about its organization which was sent to other police forces.

Rolls jobs go

Another 170 jobs are to go at the Rolls-Royce diesel engine factory at Shrewsbury, it was announced yesterday. The redundancies are blamed on falling orders, particularly from overseas.

INDEX-LINKED NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES AND INDEX-LINKED SAYE

NEW 2.4% SUPPLEMENT FOR 1983-1984

A new supplement of 2.4% per annum on top of index linking has been announced for Index-Linked National Savings Certificates and Index-Linked SAYE held in 1983-1984. This is in addition to the 2.4% supplement for 1982-1983 and follows the same pattern.

National Savings Certificates

The new supplement will be earned if the Certificates are held for the whole year until 1 November 1984. It will be calculated on the index-linked value at 31 October 1983.

This value includes the current supplement accruing on 1 November 1983.

Index-linked SAYE

The 2.4% supplement payable for 1983-84 can be earned on similar terms to the supplement accruing on 1 December 1983 for the year 1982-83. Holders will be sent details individually.

No supplements are earned if you cash in early.





Tension between the two camps

At Penrith on Tuesday I asked Mr Kinnock what he would see as leader about his deputy campaigning within the party for the retention of American nuclear bases in this country when it was party policy to get rid of them. Mr Kinnock sidestepped the question—drawing a delicious distinction between the process between a side-step and an evasion, to which he implied only a low and cunning politician could have recourse. It was understandable that Mr Kinnock should demonstrate his accomplishment in the art of side-stepping on that occasion. But he will have to confront the question sometime. Mr Hattersley has committed himself to certain key policies that are not yet accepted by Mr Kinnock. Mr Hattersley cannot now discard those commitments without forfeiting all public respect. But will Mr Kinnock be willing or able to compromise sufficiently to work in harness with a man who continues to abide by the Hattersley manifesto?

Ministers fail to agree on North Sea herring

No ban on fox hunting

In terms of road taxation and expenditure as a percentage of state

on fox hunting

Heseltine: Balanced decision

SHIPBUILDING

ting

McDonald: Is it fixed price

83 reflect very poor performance and some of the corporation's major

New forum

aggression, but have not the people in Nicaragua got the same rights as the people in Finland?

have the same rights to be protected against aggression as the people in the Falkland Islands?

Should not the British Government be seeking to uphold the charter of the United Nations in

There is not the slightest shadow about the number of Cuban military advisers Communists in Central America they ever get Communism in an area they will never get rid of it

No-strike deal offer to health service unions

as no constitu

government will try to secure self-determination and will uphold efforts to set in motion democracy.

Additional role

Two issues decided for this Parliament

Death penalty for	For	Agmt	Ma
Murder resulting	245	389	11

VOTING DETAILS			
Pay proposal	For	Agst	Mal
1. 10% increase	10	10	10
2. 5% increase	10	10	10
3. 3% increase	10	10	10
4. No increase	10	10	10
5. 1% increase	10	10	10
6. 2% increase	10	10	10
7. 4% increase	10	10	10
8. 6% increase	10	10	10
9. 7% increase	10	10	10
10. 8% increase	10	10	10
11. 9% increase	10	10	10
12. 11% increase	10	10	10
13. 12% increase	10	10	10
14. 13% increase	10	10	10
15. 14% increase	10	10	10
16. 15% increase	10	10	10
17. 16% increase	10	10	10
18. 17% increase	10	10	10
19. 18% increase	10	10	10
20. 19% increase	10	10	10
21. 20% increase	10	10	10
22. 21% increase	10	10	10
23. 22% increase	10	10	10
24. 23% increase	10	10	10
25. 24% increase	10	10	10
26. 25% increase	10	10	10
27. 26% increase	10	10	10
28. 27% increase	10	10	10
29. 28% increase	10	10	10
30. 29% increase	10	10	10
31. 30% increase	10	10	10
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82. 81% increase	10	10	10
83. 82% increase	10	10	10
84. 83% increase	10	10	10
85. 84% increase	10	10	10
86. 85% increase	10	10	10
87. 86% increase	10	10	10
88. 87% increase	10	10	10
89. 88% increase	10	10	10
90. 89% increase	10	10	10

European Assembly

Britain's crumbling motorways: 2

Age of the butterfly, not the bypass

In the early 1970s, London kicked off its ring road programme by voting in Labour on a "holidays before roads" platform.

	Tax revenue: (% from roads)
UK	7.9
W Germany	6.0
France	12.6
US	4.9
Belgium	7.3
Holland	7.8

Govt spending: (% on roads)	2.3
	4.9
	7.0
	4.7
	6.9
	1.7

European Assembly

of South,

صبرنا من الراجل

Am...
...to Britain

150 من الامارات

T-New member
A-Aye (for the proposal)
N-No (against the proposal)
TA-Teller for the Ayes
TN-Teller for the Noes

How the ayes had it on hanging and pay

- 1 Terrorism
- 2 Police
- 3 Prison officers
- 4 Shooting or explosion
- 5 During theft
- 6 Murder
- 7 Linkage with civil service
- 8 £18,500 over 5 years
- 9 Higher pay to £18,500
- 10 Pay package

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10									
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Crisis in Central America: Pentagon monitors Soviet ships

Council of Churches warns Reagan

Vancouver (Reuters) - Some 200 Protestant Church leaders from the United States yesterday demanded the withdrawal of US forces from Central America and denounced the Reagan Administration's policy of closer ties with South Africa.

The leaders, attending a meeting of the World Council of Churches (WCC), have sent two messages to President Reagan.

"We are alarmed and offended by the escalation of the US military engagement you have ordered in Central America," one message said.

It called on the Administration to end "all overt or covert efforts to destabilize, or overthrow the legitimate Government of Nicaragua."

The message on South Africa described President Reagan's policies as destructive for blacks in that country and accused Washington of supplying arms to Pretoria through Israel.

The group backed economic sanctions to isolate South Africa in the areas of trade, foreign bank loans and foreign investment. It comprised the American religious leaders and included WCC delegates and observers at the meeting.

Signatories included Bishop James Armstrong of the United Methodist Church, the President of the National Council of Churches (NCC), and Mr Avery Post, president of the United Church of Christ. Mr Arie Brouwer, general secretary of the Reformed Church in America, and Mr James Andrews, of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The NCC's 32 member churches claim 35 million adherents and include most leading American Protestant denominations with the exception of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

● **BRASILIA:** M. Claude Cheysson, the French Minister of External Relations, yesterday criticized the dispatch of American warships to Central America, saying it did nothing to help bring peace to the region (Reuters reports).

Speaking to reporters here, he appealed to the Reagan Administration to put the defence of developing countries' economies ahead of arms spending and reiterated French support for the peace efforts of the Contadora Group - Colombia, Panama, Mexico and Venezuela.

France backed a declaration issued by the group in Cancun, Mexico, last week calling for negotiations between Central American states.

Russian 'arms pour into Nicaragua'

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

As US warships took up positions 100 miles off the Pacific coast of Central America, the Pentagon said yesterday that about 12 Soviet-bloc cargo ships were heading for Nicaragua in a new surge of arms deliveries.

US intelligence agencies have reported the arrival of nine shiploads of military equipment in Nicaragua so far this year, which together with the new deliveries could represent a quadrupling of Soviet arms supplies over 1982.

The first of the 12 ships supposedly heading for Corinto on Nicaragua's Pacific coast - the 13,150-ton Aleksandr Ulyanov, a 460ft cargo ship named by President Reagan during his televised press conference this week - is expected to arrive tomorrow.

Pentagon officials said it passed through the Panama Canal on Tuesday and, like the other ships now en route, was believed to be carrying howitzers, rockets, lorries, electronic gear and troop-carrying helicopters.

Deliveries so far this year were said to have included tanks, artillery, rockets, lorries, helicopters, electronic equipment and weapons systems.

Greece proposes EEC initiative

Greece proposed yesterday that the EEC should undertake a peace initiative in Central America, our Athens correspondent writes. This was announced by a Greek government spokesman who said Greece had acted in its capacity as the Community's president and in the context of its political cooperation. He said the proposal was contained in a message sent to the other nine governments in which Greece expressed its concern for the situation in Central America after the recent developments, including US military manoeuvres.

The success of President Reagan's Central America policy depends on convincing Americans that the Soviet Union is sharply increasing its military and personnel presence in the region. Critics of US strategy argue that the Soviet Union may now be stepping up arms deliveries in direct response to increased US involvement.

The political struggle for the President's policy in the house of Representatives last night centred, in a hostile debate on

ending covert US aid to Nicaraguan guerrillas opposing the left-wing Sandinista regime.

A head-count in the house pointed to an extremely close vote on a Democratic-supported Bill to replace covert aid to guerrillas with overt or covert help to friendly governments to impede the flow of illicit arms in the region.

There is no serious prospect that such a proposition would be approved by the Republican-controlled Senate, and in any case President Reagan would use his veto if it did. The outcome of the house vote, however, could be critical in influencing immediate American strategy in Central America.

The scale of US military manoeuvres to be held in the region in the next six months is so great that the Department of Defence fears it does not have sufficient funds to pay for them.

The Navy, in particular, will be committing huge resources - 19 ships, including two aircraft carriers and a battleship, 140 carrier-based aircraft and 16,500 officers and men.

That is in addition to 4,000 military personnel who will be in Honduras. Pentagon officials conceded yesterday that the Department of Defence may have to ask Congress to approve a reallocation of funds to meet the cost.

Stone denies attack role for patrolling warships

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Tegucigalpa, Honduras (Reuters) - Mr Richard Stone, the US special envoy, has denied reports quoting him as saying warships dispatched to Central America were not sent purely for military exercises.

Mr Stone was quoted by Salvadoran reporters as telling members of the Constituent Assembly in San Salvador that the 14 warships were not sent for defensive purposes but could be used for attack.

"I never said it," Mr Stone said as he left a meeting with President Roberto Suazo Cordova of Honduras on Wednesday night. "On the contrary, the fleet is conducting its regular manoeuvres in an effort to preserve the peace."

The reporters said they overheard Mr Stone's alleged remark while waiting in an adjacent room in the assembly building. Assembly members did not confirm that Mr Stone had made the remark.

Mr Stone, sent by President Reagan as the US representative



Mr Richard Stone: Simple dialogue wanted

to Central American peace efforts, met members of the Salvadoran Constituent Assembly. President Alvaro Magaña of El Salvador and President Belisario Betancur of Colombia while in El Salvador on Wednesday. He then flew to Honduras. His next destination was not known.

● **SAN SALVADOR:** Mr Stone said during his visit on

Wednesday to the Salvadorean Constituent Assembly that the United States was more concerned about El Salvador than Afghanistan or Lebanon and that he wanted "a simple dialogue" with Salvadoran guerrillas without preconditions (AFP and NYT report).

He asked deputies for help "against the Communists and the Sandinistas" in Nicaragua.

Mr Stone later said that initiatives towards reaching an agreement with El Salvador's left-wing guerrillas had not been exhausted and that he was seeking talks with them. He said nothing concrete had yet emerged from his recent meetings with leaders in the various Central American nations.

A senior Salvadorean Government official said it may be possible that the Colombian President passed on a message to Mr Stone from Señor Guillermo Ungo, a leader of the Salvadorean insurgents. President Betancur met Señor Ungo in Panama on Tuesday night, according to the government official.

Iran spying denied by Red Cross

Tehran (Reuters) - M. Jean-Paul Fallet, the head of the International Red Cross in Tehran, yesterday denied an Iranian claim that one of his staff had been spying.

An Iranian official had accused M. Charles Guequand of spying, and the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday gave him three days to leave the country.

The accusation followed an incident at a camp holding Iraqi prisoners of war, which culminated in M. Guequand and M. Fallet being beaten up by prisoners. M. Fallet said he was surprised and disappointed by the charge.

"This has never been and will never be the case that a Red Cross delegate has been spying. This is an accusation that I really refute," he said.

At the International Red Cross headquarters in Geneva, a spokesman expressed astonishment and regret at the incident and said the organization was seeking clarification from Iran's Foreign Ministry.

M. Fallet said M. Guequand has been able to conduct private unmonitored conversations with Iraqi prisoners more easily than other members of the Red Cross team in Tehran because he spoke Arabic.

The Iranian version of events was given by Mr Muhammad Ali Nazarian, an official in charge of Iraqi prisoners of war, in an interview with the national news agency Iran on Tuesday.

Mr Nazarian said M. Guequand had taken from a prisoner a list of "committed Muslim" Iraqi prisoners of war and promised to pass it to Baghdad for their families to be harassed. The phrase "committed Muslim" is usually used to mean someone who supports Iran's Islamic revolution.

Iran said that when the prisoners concerned discovered what had happened, they attacked the Red Cross official and he and an Iranian officer accompanying him had been hurt.

● **More Bahais held:** Twenty-two prominent members of the Bahai faith have been arrested in Iran after the executions last month of 17 Bahais accused of espionage, a spokeswoman for the faith said in London yesterday. She said eight men and eight women had been imprisoned this month after being arrested in Tehran, the southern city of Shiraz and Mashhad in the north.



One jump ahead: This sculpture at the top of Brooklyn's Prison Ship Martyrs Monument of a man committing suicide has brought a flood of emergency calls to local police. Now the artist wants to move it - to the Brooklyn Bridge.

Israeli-US talks

Pullback only first withdrawal stage

From Moshé Ali, Washington

Israeli ministers in talks here with the Reagan Administration have indicated that the planned redeployment of Israeli troops on more secure positions in south Lebanon is a first stage in the implementation of the May Israeli-Lebanese agreement.

During some 12 hours of talks over two days at the State Department Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister have discussed problems connected to the matter.

Mr Shamir told reporters after talks with Mr George Shultz the secretary of State, on Wednesday evening that he had explained to him that in the Israeli concept, the partial pullback was "the first stage" of the implementation of the May agreement which calls for the total withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

President Reagan, who was meeting Mr Shamir and Mr Arens yesterday, renewed his efforts to bring about a total withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Mr Shamir's comments seem to bring Israeli views close to the United States position. The Reagan Administration's basic objective is the full withdrawal of all foreign forces and that any partial withdrawal should not complicate the difficult task.

He added that if the Israelis pulled out in a phased withdrawal "it certainly will give us a better case for breaking the roadblock that has been established by Syria and pursuing them to keep their original promise that when others withdraw, they would withdraw."

Increase in Nigerian voters challenged

Lagos (Reuters) - More than 65 million Nigerians will be eligible to vote in national and state elections starting on August 6, Federal Electoral Commission officials said yesterday.

The figure, in registers released by the commission, represents a 34 per cent increase over the 48.6 million people registered for the 1979 elections when the military peacefully handed over power to a civilian government.

Within hours of the figures being released, officials of

several of the six parties campaigning for presidential, National Assembly and state elections were complaining that the figures had been inflated.

If they are accurate, in a country that has not had an accepted census for 30 years, the population of Nigeria would be around 130 million compared to the generally accepted current estimate of 80-100 million.

The biggest number of votes will be available in the northern Kano state where 7.6 million people were registered, compared to 5.1 million in 1979.

He was speaking in advance of yesterday's discussions with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for

Defence, during a three-day visit to Britain.

Strict security had been ordered for the visit even before the Lisbon bombing, with Whitehall and the Turkish Embassy refusing to list Mr Rurkman's programme in advance.

The Foreign Minister, who has been described as a priority target for the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia, declared that no Turkish diplomat would be deterred by the threat, though no security measures could ever be foolproof.

Nor could he offer any hope to the Armenians of attaining their two main objectives - the

Gangland boss shot dead in Paris

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

At 5.30 yesterday morning a gunman wearing dark clothes stepped out of the shadow of trees on a fashionable Paris street and shot dead Gilbert Zemmour, aged 48, who had been walking his four doodles.

With Zemmour's death a crime family is virtually extinguished. Three of his brothers have been killed, the last in Miami, Florida, in May this year. The only survivor, André, is variously reported to be looking after his business interests in the French Antilles or on holiday at his villa in Majorca.

The killing, a spokesman for the police anti-gang brigade said, "was a typical gangland assassination - ruthless and efficient." According to a porter in a building next to Zemmour's in the Avenue de Segur, in the expensive seventh arrondissement, the gunman fired four or five shots from a large-calibre pistol or revolver, hitting Zemmour in the head three times. "Then he just vanished into the dawn."

Zemmour, slim, short-haired and handsome, was the youngest of the clan, which originated in North Africa and moved to France in the 1950s after Algeria gained its independence. The brothers rapidly gained a foothold in prostitution and illegal gaming - and just as rapidly ran up against the established crime barons, dominated by the Union Corse and the Mafia.

Rowland, the eldest, was the first to go, gunned down in 1957 in a street just off the Champs Elysees. William was the next, mortally wounded in a shoot-out with the police in a Paris bar in 1975. Then it was Edgar's turn, in a shooting in Florida only two months ago.

Now André, 55, is the sole survivor of a family that for almost a quarter of a century battled both the police and rivals for power and riches in the Paris underworld. Even achieving a kind of dubious immortality by being portrayed in Alexandre Arcady's film, *Le Grand Pardon* as Les Parrains (godfathers) of French crime.

The brothers always craved respectability as well as wealth, and invested much of their money in legitimate businesses in Israel, Canada, the United States and the Caribbean. Their crime empire was similarly diversified, including investments in brothels in West Germany.

Gilbert described himself as a property investor - and, indeed, owned land and buildings in Paris, Brussels and elsewhere. Neighbours in the Avenue de Segur described his apartment there as "sumptuous". But he had become careless, always walking his dogs early in the morning.

And his end yesterday was appropriately dramatic, coming just after a violent thunderstorm. The question now is who inherits the flourishing empire?

Tina Onassis in fight to avoid £31.5m tax bill

From Mario Mediano, Athens

Miss Christina Onassis, the shipping heiress, asked a Greek tax court yesterday to stay a decision of the local tax authorities that she should pay £31.5m in death duties, fines, and interest on the Greek estate of her late father, Aristotle Onassis.

The court promised to issue its ruling on Monday after Miss Onassis's lawyers requested that payment be suspended until the appeal hearing.

In her appeal, Miss Onassis argues that her father - who died in 1975 - was a citizen of Argentina and never resided or owned property in Greece. The Ministry of Finance claims that the Onassis assets were controlled by front companies, mostly based in Panama, to evade taxes and duties.

The assets include the Olympic Airways, the Greek national airline, which was purchased by the state from Victoria Financial Company of Panama five months after Mr Onassis died. Payment of about \$5m (£3.3m) is still outstanding.

Miss Onassis's lawyers argue that this company does not belong to her.

50 die in Angola as train hits mine

Lisbon (Reuters) - Fifty people died and 210 were injured when a train hit a mine in eastern Angola, the official Angolan news agency said.

It blamed the explosion on South Africa and anti-government guerrillas supported by Pretoria.

"This indescribable crime by South Africa's racist regime is part of the regime of destabilization of Pretoria against civilian and economic targets in Angola," the agency said. The explosion happened early on Wednesday, it said.

Unita guerrillas have attacked several railway targets recently in their attempts to overthrow the Marxist Government of Angola.

Forest recluse flees police

Assisi (AP) - A young businessman whose factory went bankrupt has spent nearly five months living in the woods near here after his family gave him up for dead.

Signor Osvaldo Micheli, aged 35, was discovered by a ranger and identified himself by showing his driver's licence before fleeing into the woods again. Police with helicopters and dogs have been unable to track him down.

Escape foiled

Berlin (AP) - An unidentified man failed to crash his lorry through the Berlin Wall early yesterday and was pulled from the driver's cabin and detained by East Berlin border guards.

Editor wins

Rome (Reuters) - A Judge ordered the Rome-based *Daily American* newspaper immediately to reinstate its editor, Mr Christopher Winner, locked out last month with his editorial staff of 16, in a pay dispute, the editor's lawyer said.

\$10,000 left

Los Angeles (Reuters) - Vicki Morgan, the murdered ex-actress who drove a Mercedes and kept servants as the self-proclaimed mistress of multi-millionaire Alfred Bloomingdale, left about \$10,000 (about £6,500) in assets, according to papers filed in court here.

Therapist jailed

Los Angeles (Reuters) - A 43-year-old cancer therapist said to have told sufferers that he had a secret serum to treat the disease, was sentenced to the maximum term of six years imprisonment for defrauding patients in California.

Bette Midler ill

Bette Midler, the singer, suffering from exhaustion and an upset stomach, collapsed on stage during a performance in Portland, Oregon, and was taken to hospital. Her condition was later described as stable.

Human skeleton

Chur, Switzerland (AP) - A hiker touring mountain passes near the village of Silvaplana discovered the skeleton of Herr Josef Gehrt, a West German climber who disappeared in July, 1978.

Athens murder

Athens (AP) - A political exile from Damascus, Joseph Radouac, aged 25, has been shot dead in Piraeus. The gunman shot him twice in the head at point-blank range.

Dioxin inquiry

Brussels (Reuters) - The Belgian Labour Ministry has begun an inquiry into a series of planned shipments of chemical waste containing dioxin from a factory at Linz in Austria to Antwerp where the council is worried about public health risks.

Warsaw power game

Poles tighten up penal laws

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish Parliament (Sejm) yesterday capped the process of lifting martial law by tightening legislation to prevent Solidarity-style opposition to the Government. But, in response to church pressure, the Parliament dropped other amendments that would have penalized those who spread false information aimed at causing public unrest.

The amendments approved overwhelmingly yesterday gave the Government the following powers:

- To imprison for up to three years people who take part in the activities of a non-registered or banned trade union. This broadens the scope of the legislation from those who organize such a trade union to those who are its member.
- To jail for up to three years those who are found guilty of organizing or leading an illegal protest action.
- To impose prior censorship on publications or artistic performance that "pose a threat to the security of the state", photographic exhibitions, trade union publications and new editions of most scientific publications. Anything that threatens the defensive potential of the state is also liable to be censored.

The church leadership had objected to the amendments both of the penal code and censorship law, arguing that while martial law was always an explicitly temporary phenomenon, the Government was seeking to make permanent changes which rolled back some of the freedoms won during the Solidarity era. This was not, the church argued in letters and personal interventions, in the spirit of the Pope's recent visit to Poland.

In response, the Government had first split the proposed permanent changes from the



Back to kitchen: Mrs Zofia Romaszewska, a leading Solidarity organizer released under the Polish amnesty, works in her kitchen for the first time in seven months. Her husband, Zbigniew, remains in jail

"temporary" restrictions that will be valid until 1985. Then it dropped some of the changes, including yesterday the amendment tightening control over those who pass "false information".

This clause was aimed primarily at discouraging people from supplying information about demonstration or unrest

to Western radio stations that broadcast in Polish into Poland. The Polish authorities believe that these radio stations - including the BBC, Radio Free Europe and Voice of America - have been used to destabilize Poland.

Though some amendments were dropped, the changes were not passed unanimously.

Jakarta admits carrying out killings

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta

Lieutenant-General Ali Murtopo, a member of the Supreme Advisory Council, has confirmed for the first time that the summary execution of criminals in Indonesia's main cities is being carried out "according to the stipulations of the Defence and Security Ministry".

There have been more than 500 such killings by official count in the past few months, but the death toll is believed by

civil rights groups to be much higher.

General Murtopo, in a widely reported statement, said he believed people were relieved to be rid of a menace that could develop into the proportions of a Red Brigade, but the Government was keeping close track of both national and international criticism of the shooting campaign.

Most of those killed are members of ex-convicts' associ-

ations and well-known extortionists. When the shootings started early this year, public reaction was almost unequivocally favourable.

But in the past month, despite the support of senior public officials, Indonesia's leading human rights organization, the Legal Aid Society, and Mr Adam Malik, the former Vice-President and several parliamentarians, have publicly denounced the shootings.

صبرنا من الامل

THE ARTS

Theatre

Cyrano de Bergerac

Barbican

Undaunted, or perhaps spurred on by the National Theatre's unhappy experience with this play, the RSC have matched Rosand's heroic text with an heroic production. It runs to nearly three-and-a-half hours, the cast list occupies two full pages, the combined forces of Ralph Koltai and Clive Morris flood the Barbican stage with noble, atmosphere-drenched settings, and the dramatically alert music enables me gratefully to add the name of Nigel Hess to the list of theatrically gifted composers I discussed on this page last week.

Cyrano de Bergerac is an extremely rare example of a play specifically reflecting a totally artificial code of manners, which triumphantly survives its own time and passes into universal currency. It is in favour of militarism, grand suicidal gestures, idealized love, and an inseparable blend of hooliganism and romantic delicacy.

It also manages to preserve a sense of witty anachronism without deflating the heroics. The Garçon cadets are starving to death on the battlefield, awaiting massacre at the hands of the Spanish: a coach rolls up containing the ardent Christian, in quest of her beloved Christian. But no sooner have you settled down to endure a ridiculous love scene, than she announces that she has bought her hair

specifically for the battle; and moreover, loaded the coach with Parisian delicacies. The play never goes out of fashion: rather it lies in wait for the right actor, and I do not believe it has found him in Derek Jacobi. Mr Jacobi has many advantages on his side, besides a masterly physical transformation. He has speed, ardour, capacity for quick changes and unforced authority among his wolfish comrades.

What lingers on, though, is the adolescent whine that has always sabotaged his delivery, and above sense - which matters more and more as the evening wears on.

As Ralph Richardson demonstrated long ago, the key to *Cyrano* is passionate sincerity. As played here, the wit is there simply to offset the sentiment. As a result, Terry Hands's production scores most in crowd scenes, such as the opening theatrical humiliation of Montfleury, and the breakfast for the starving poets at Ragueneau's shop, with a loving and wholly credible performance by Peter Postlethwaite as the literature-fancying pastry cook. There is also a fine, subtly drawn de Guiche by John Carlisle, who leaves his villainous options open for the partial last act restoration.

The production is not moving, but at its best it is thrilling, and funny, leaving you wishing only that Puccini has set it to music.

Irving Wardle

Television

Paris is a city to live up to rather than in, perhaps the most prominent example of the influence of architecture upon manners, even in a resolutely mundane programme like *European Connections: France* (Central), the familiar picture of urban sprawl looked different somehow. The skyscrapers of La Défense are grouped around a Miros sculpture; in a bad light, it might be difficult to tell them apart. France is, after all, the society of the spectacle.

This was the first of a series depicting an Englishman's life in foreign parts. Paul Webster, last night's subject, is a correspondent in Paris and of course, after a while, to reporters all cities seem the same. Paris was, for him, essentially a place of work. But he has lived in that city for 10 years, which is quite enough time to observe those national peculiarities which are strong and permanent precisely because they are taken for granted by those who possess them.

Webster pointed out, for example, that French children are exposed to philosophical education relatively early in their education; but, before Heidegger is introduced to Notting Hill Comprehensive, it ought to be understood that the only result seems to be that "it is very difficult to find a Frenchman who can't talk intelligently about politics". That must be very hard to bear.

The French no doubt live in a more civilized or at least more cultivated society than our own - although that is not, in itself, a sufficient reason for wanting to move there. The point of a series such as this ought to be to examine the reasons why English people decide to be domiciled in France - what they miss by it and what they gain - but last night's programme, which veered uneasily between travelogue and documentary, did not get very far.

Peter Ackroyd

Rarities from France

Jacques Feyder

National Film Theatre

Jacques Tati shorts

Everyman

This is one of those freak weeks without any new cinema releases, no matter, life goes on. The National Film Theatre, for instance, is spending August in the stimulating company of Jacques Feyder, the director of *La Kermesse Héroïque* and other French classics, who seems to have been steadily sinking into oblivion since his death in 1948. Cinema history is cruelly enslaved to fashion: if films from the past are never revived and considered afresh, great reputations can quickly dwindle to dust or mere platitudes. Feyder - once placed alongside Renoir, René Clair and Marcel Carné - has suffered death by fates. If current cinema books examine his work at all, they do so only on the basis of his past standing - as a maker of visually eloquent silent films; as the director, above all, of *La Kermesse Héroïque* (1935), famed for its expert recreation of sixteenth-century Flanders and the wholehearted star performance of his wife, Françoise Rosay.

Once the hard evidence is collected and surveyed, however, a different, far more complex picture emerges. The realistic surface of Feyder's films, so carefully prepared through painstaking decor and adventurous locations, periodically gives way to various kinds of fantasy - sometimes poetic (as in the beautiful *Visages d'enfants* of 1923), sometimes satirical (*Les Nouveaux Messieurs*, even occasionally erotic (*Le Grand Jeu*). Feyder's camera and characters constantly do the unexpected, pulled off by the director's evident love of human peculiarities.

The bewildering *Nouveaux Messieurs* (1928) refuses to settle down into the airy, civilized, Clair-like comedy. Its material includes the gibes at politicians of every shade and the spectacle of human corruption cut too deeply. Similarly, the spirited *Grand Jeu* (1933) never becomes the pot-pourri of

Cinema



Marlene Dietrich in Feyder's "Knight Without Armour"

Foreign Legion clichés suggested by its story of a loveless legionnaire in Morocco. The atmosphere is disconcertingly thick with flies, hubbub, dark mysteries, sexual desire; even the background music (composed by Hanns Eisler) is acrid and unsettling.

Feyder himself - by all accounts a man of much personal nobility - voiced his gifts modestly: he was an artist, he said, rather than an artist. From some angles this self-assessment is perceptive and just. In the 1920s, particularly, he was content to lean on distinguished literary sources: Zola's *Thérèse Raquin* (a lost film, unfortunately), Anatole France's *Crainquebille*, Prosper Mérimée's *Carmen* (this last film, incidentally, shows the perils of idle subservience: the visual texture is unimpeachable, but the characters strut like puppets). Feyder also jumped from subject to subject, keeping his craftsmanship intact. Countries were equally assimilated. He spent some years in Hollywood, working with Garbo on *The King*; he joined Alexander Korda's foreign armada at Denham, directing Dietrich in the absurd but likable *Knight Without Armour*. He filmed in Germany (the bilingual circus drama *Les Gens du voyage*) and ended his days in Switzerland, the artisan in Feyder also

allowed him to collaborate fruitfully with others - particularly Françoise Rosay, his regular script writer Charles Spaak, and the art director Lazare Meerson. Rosay is an actress for all seasons, all emotions, in the remarkable *Pension Mimosas* (1934) she effortlessly leaps from outrage to tender tears; she convinces both as a fashionable *grande dame* (*Gribiche*) or a circus lion-tamer, cracking the whip with gusto (*Les Gens du voyage*). Rosay was also thoroughly capable of taking over the direction when Feyder fell ill; during *Visages d'enfants*, shot in the Swiss mountains, she took charge for two weeks. The Russian-born Lazare Meerson gave Feyder a matching blend of strength, fierce style and versatility. Spanish taverna and Paris bistrot are created with the same verve as art deco apartments dripping with soft curves and angular light fittings. Perhaps his nearest achievements lie in *Pension Mimosas* - largely set in Côte d'Azur hotel designed with a rare combination of decorative style and economy.

Yet, the more Feyder films one sees, the more he becomes an idiosyncratic artist. Obsessive themes keep poking through. The emotional rivalries between the boy, half-sister and stepmother in *Visages d'enfants* variously spread into *Gribiche*, *Les Nouveaux Mes-*

seurs and the late portmanteau film *Une Femme disparaît*. The most bizarre variation occurs in *Pension Mimosas*, where Rosay's hotel proprietor nurses a secret passion for her godson - a passion kept secret even from the audience until well into the film.

The directorial style contains equal peculiarities. The early expressive experiments with superimpositions and dizzy camerawork disappear with sound, but Feyder consistently enlivens his images with unpredictable details. Faces of crowds and passers-by are curiously thrust before us: narrative irrelevancies add spice to routine moments - a servant returning a forgotten hat, a policeman clumsily dropping his handcuffs. Feyder's quizzical manner, moreover, carries its own electric charge: few scenes in cinema can be as insidiously erotic as the moment in *Le Grand Jeu* when the gross hotelier quietly feasts his eyes on the maid hanging fly-papers from the ceiling. These are films that throb with strange, erratic life: after this marvellous season (Monday until August 21) no one should relegate Feyder to the cobwebbed corners of cinema's past.

Further French rarities may be found at the Everyman cinema. Handpicked during the 10-day Jacques Tati season beginning on Monday, recent revivals have re-awakened audiences to the pleasures of *Jour de fête*, *Mon Oncle* and *Playtime*, but Tati's short films remain unknown territory. Two are now offered as supports for *Playtime* (on August 2, 4, 6 and 10).

L'École des facteurs (1947) presents the blithe kernel of *Jour de fête*: the spindly young Tati pursues his postal round, swinging his shoulder bag in a vicious circle, entangling his bike with a level crossing, conducting himself with perfect comic grace. But it is the later film, *Cours de soir*, made in 1967 and directed on Tati's behalf by Nicolas Robowski, that really fascinates. Standing in an antiseptic room before a strange audience of sober-suited gentlemen, Tati conducts a demonstration lecture on human observation. We learn how to smoke, cough and wheeze; how to fish, ride a horse, trip up stairs and walk into obstacles. As a film in itself, *Cours de soir* is completely despatched, but there is a definite hypnotic power in the spectacle of Tati - always the most meticulous of clowns - examining his old routines under laboratory conditions.

Geoff Brown

Opera

Griselda

Buxton

Malcolm Fraser's way is to go back to contemporary practice: first in translating the recitative into our vernacular, leaving the arias where the vowel reigns, in Italian; and second, in giving full rein to Goldoni's comic intermezzi, performed here, in true cornetto-macaroni sole mio style, by a troupe of madrigal singing actors whipped along by clown Chris Harris.

They rarely outstay their welcome and do much to weave a bright, seamless tapestry with the drama in hand, building and releasing tension as they nudge us in and out of sympathy with the protagonists. It is they, for instance, who aid in the ritual undressing of the distraught and desolate Griselda and later, in their merriment highlight her isolation: Cynthia Buchan lives up vocally and dramatically to the full glory Goldoni and Vivaldi accord their prima donnas.

She is matched by the splendidly boorish, sententious John Mitchinson as her husband Gusmano, and menaced by the infuriating Ottone, Phyllis Cannan, brave, bearded but not always quite brilliant in her testy castrato role. Daughter Costanza's coloratura ripples magnificently from the throat of Paula Scaleria, with Robin Martin-Oliver and Christine Betty as the brothers Roberto and Corrado.

Hilary Finch

Concert

BBCSO/Elder

Albert Hall/Radio 3

Opportunities for orchestral performance are rare enough these days that most composers approach the task of a Prom commission with gladness and reach all at once for the big statement. Nor need there be anything wrong in that last year, the year of the four symphonies, produced three works of more than ordinary moment.

This season, however, the complexion of the new pieces is different. Only one of them is for full orchestra, and that is not a symphony but a concerto, the Piano Concerto by Dominic Muldowney that had its first performance on Wednesday night.

In addressing his audience through the medium of the soloist, Muldowney puts himself in the position of entering the Albert Hall obliquely, somewhat in disguise, and the indications do not end there.

Paul Griffiths

US butter sale to Egypt puts EEC truce at risk

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The EEC is far from happy about a new American deal to sell large quantities of butter and cheese to Egypt. Experts of the European Commission are studying the details of the deal with the idea of referring the matter to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The new deal thus threatens the uneasy truce between the Community and the United States on agricultural trade. The US Administration claims that the contract for 18,000 tonnes of butter and 6,000 tonnes of cheese is in reality only food aid and thus does not represent an unfair intrusion into a traditional EEC market.

But the Commission is deeply suspicious of the "food aid" argument and is carrying out its own investigations to see whether the interest-free dairy product deal really does match up to the GATT criteria. The matter was raised during a two-day meeting in Brussels this week between senior American and EEC agricultural officials and, according to a senior commission representative, "it poisoned the atmosphere of the talks".

Trade relations on agriculture between the EEC and the US have been very strained since

the latter sold a million tonnes of wheat flour to Egypt at the beginning of the year. Talks have continued since then to try to defuse the situation, but the new deal with Egypt is certain to make this even more difficult.

Some officials are drawing up plans for retaliatory action in dumping EEC surplus products on sensitive American markets, if the commission should decide to "go to war" on the issue. The dispute comes at a particularly difficult time for the EEC: it is on the point of trying to negotiate a reform of its common agricultural policy, aimed at reducing the cost of farm support by about 20 per cent. Details of this plan have been thrashed out by the 14 members of the commission over the past three days and are due to be released today.

If, however, it was felt necessary to fight off American dumping, then the cost of supporting the CAP would soar and put paid to plans for immediate reform.

It would also make it even more difficult to persuade the United States to limit its exports of such products as cereal substitutes to Europe, which is one of the main commission hopes for saving money on the CAP.

Muldoon boosts spending with eye on election

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington

A budget promising mild stimulation of a sluggish economy was presented to Parliament last night. Its distinguishing feature is a record internal deficit of £3.1 billion.

Mr Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, delivering the budget, conceded that a fiscal deficit representing 9.5 per cent of gross domestic product posed difficulties for economic management.

Government spending is forecast to rise by 13.1 per cent to £14,336m in 1983-84. An increase influenced by higher expenditures on industrial development and payment of debt services. Receipts are expected to rise by only 2.4 per cent to £11,167m.

The injection of new money might help to enhance the Government's election chances next year but it will also pose a threat to the tenuous gains against inflation achieved through a prices and wages freeze.

New York court bails 8 in IRA plot case

From Arnold Lubash (New York Times)

Federal authorities have charged eight men in connection with alleged conspiracies to sell about \$2m (£1.3m) worth of weapons to Iran and about \$15m worth of machine guns, silencers and other weapons without serial numbers to the IRA.

The authorities said the investigation had been conducted by undercover agents who displayed \$10m in cash to the suspects, seized 100 machine guns along with an assassination kit and taped a discussion about a stolen nuclear device.

The agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms conducted their eight-month investigation by posing as representatives of Iran and the IRA seeking a wide range of weapons that included tanks, helicopters and missiles.

Neither Iran nor the IRA was really involved. All eight suspects were arrested and brought to a bail hearing in the Manhattan Federal District court on Wednesday when bail ranging from \$1.25m to \$7,500 was set. The suspects' lawyers disputed the charges and described the suspects as legitimate businessmen who had never been arrested before.

The main suspects are Abbott van Backer, aged 62, of Clark Summit, Pennsylvania; Alan Harvey, aged 73, of Hawthorn, New Jersey; and Robert Krejci, aged 45, of Brooklyn, New York. They are charged with the Iran conspiracy. Mr Harvey and Mr Krejci are also charged with the IRA conspiracy.

The other five suspects are said to be machinists who produced extremely high-quality machine guns. They are William Moravcik, aged 57, of Port Washington, Long Island; Oldrich Pastorek, aged 47, of Rutherford, New Jersey; Elton Kluger, aged 58, of New York; Mirek Zavadil, of Queens, New York; and Dennis Mach, aged 49, of Dover, New Jersey.

The three main defendants were described by the authorities as independent middlemen who conducted weapons deals between manufacturers and buyers. They were charged with having agreed to provide 25 attack helicopters, 100 M60A1 tanks, 60 Hawk missiles and numerous other military weapons for delivery to Iran.

Il Duce's centenary turns sour

From Peter Nichols

Rome

How to celebrate the centenary of Mussolini's birth has perplexed the Italian authorities since postmark recording the event had to be withdrawn.

Benito Mussolini was born on July 29, 1883, one hundred years ago today, at Predappio, a town in the hills 32 miles inland from Rimini. The official postmark planned to adorn correspondence showed his father's house encircled by the simple statement: "First centenary of the birth of B. Mussolini".

The issue was not whether the event should be marked at all or allowed to pass in official silence. A majority of Italian would now agree that Mussolini's career is a part of Italian history which cannot be cancelled in the way a postage stamp can. The question was whether the date could properly be underlined in this straightforward manner without some cautionary material added to remind people that Mussolini led his country to disaster.

As soon as it was mooted, the Predappio postmark proposal ran into sharp criticism. "In the birth of Mussolini," Lietta Tornabuoni intoned on the front page of *La Stampa*, "there is nothing worthy of pure and neutral celebration."

Italy crush British women at bridge

From Keith Stanley, Bridge Correspondent, Wiesbaden

An unexpected 19-1 defeat of Britain by Italy has allowed the Netherlands to take the lead in the European women's bridge championship.

Gardner-Davies and Landy-Horton played all 64 boards against France and Italy in very humid conditions after the rest day and were understandably tired towards the end. They now have only four rounds to make up a 12-point deficit if they are to retain their title.

In the open championship, Britain drew 10-10 with third placed Hungary and then overwhelmed Switzerland 20-minus 1 to continue their progress up the table.

France still seem certain to



Benito Mussolini and the withdrawn postmark

Then the idea that a mobile post-office would have been set up outside the cathedral in Predappio on July 29 to postmark stamps for Il Duce's admirers could hardly have looked worse after the success last month in the general election of the far right-wing Italian Social Movement. The increase in the right-wing vote was in part ascribed to the generally less critical aura surrounding Mussolini's career because of the centenary celebrations.

So shamefully the Government had to withdraw the postmark plan as "a mistake". So far no estimate has been

made of the political weight to be attached to the appearance of the cover of the Italian edition of *Playboy* for August of Alessandra Mussolini who is the dictator's raven-haired grand-daughter. Her father is Vittorio Mussolini and her mother is the sister of Sophia Loren. She has the magazine says, the "sullen look of a fateful grandchild" and the appeal of her mother.

In an interview as sparse as what she is wearing, the girl explains that she was named after Mussolini's father, Alessandro, who was also from Predappio. "He was a great socialist," she says.

Results (women's series) round 6:	
Netherlands 16, 16 Lebanon 15, 17	Iceland 15, 18 Turkey 14, 19
Switzerland 13, 20 Luxembourg 13, 21	Finland 10, 22 Spain 10, 23
Yugoslavia 9, 24 Portugal 9, 25	
Results (women's series) round 7:	
Sweden 13, 13 Israel 7, Switzerland 14, 15	Poland 20, France 17, Ireland 3, Finland 9, Spain 11, Italy 19, Britain 1, Germany minus 4, Netherlands 20.
Women's standings after seven rounds:	
Netherlands 104, 2 Britain 92, 3 France 87, 4 Italy 81, 5 Poland 80, 6 Spain 71, 7 Ireland 68, 8 Germany 67, 9 Sweden 66, 10 Finland 55, 11 Switzerland 41, 12 Israel 14.	
Standings after 18 rounds:	
France 295, 2 Italy 234, 3 Hungary 225, 4 Germany 223, 5 Norway 221, 6 Netherlands 217, 7 Austria 216, 8 Belgium 200, 9 Denmark 198, 10 Britain 194, 11 Sweden 190, 12 Poland 189, 13 Ireland 173, 14 Israel 167, 15	

French gift boosts Habré

Ndjamena (Reuters) - France handed over a 28-seat transport aircraft and three-man crew yesterday as part of aid to President Hissène Habré's Government in its struggle against Libyan-backed rebels.

The twin-engined Cass-212 will reinforce Chad's small fleet of DC4s and DC3s, only one of which is operational. It was delivered to the Chad Defence Ministry by M Claude Soubeite, the French Ambassador.

French-supplied arms have helped the Government to regain the initiative in the month-old war. No fresh fighting has been reported in the last few days.

Kremlin blows hot and cold on talks

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday issued contradictory statements on East-West relations in Europe, indicating that the Russians are in two minds about the chances of an arms agreement at Geneva this year.

In a commentary on the eighth anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki agreement in 1975, Tass said the European security review conference in Madrid showed that "it is possible to come to terms when the political will is there and when there is respect for one another's legitimate interests".

Tass repeated President Yuri Andropov's recent remark that moves towards compromise between East and West over human rights at Madrid were a hopeful sign, and that this positive spirit should be maintained.

Diplomats have noted a Soviet desire to reach agreement on medium-range missiles

at Geneva before December, when new American missiles are due to be deployed. Tass said the Helsinki accords had opened up new and brighter horizons, and that despite a Western campaign against détente, the peoples of East and West Europe wanted peace and tranquility.

They do not want to view each other through a palisade of nuclear missiles, Tass commented. At the same time, in a strong attack on Nato and the United States, *Pravda* yesterday poured scorn on claims of American flexibility at Geneva. *Pravda* dismissed suggestions that the negotiations might be expedited once the new Nato missiles were in place as "demagogical".

"In actual fact, there are no grounds for optimism (at Geneva)," *Pravda* said. "The latest round of talks made no headway whatever."

Morocco forced to accept austerity budget

From Geoffrey Morrison

Morocco's Parliament has approved an austerity budget slashing planned government spending by about 13 per cent and raising taxes by about 450m dirhams (just over £40m).

Parliament had been recalled for a special session to vote on the measures which King Hassan said were necessary because of economic difficulties caused by worldwide recession, a slump in prices for Morocco's chief export, phosphates, three years of drought, seven years of war in the Western Sahara and growing protectionism.

Morocco has also been hit both by the rise, and the present stagnation, in oil prices. The rise produced a soaring import bill, and the stagnation has made its Arab-oil producer friends less eager to provide financial aid.

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SPECTRUM

THE TIMES
GUIDE TO CENTRAL AMERICA

Three separate US Navy battle groups are now converging on Nicaragua, the instruments of President Reagan's reaffirmation of the 160-year-old Monroe Doctrine, formulated to defend America's backyard when the collapse of Spain's empire turned Central America into a place where a football match could start a war. This is what they will find.

The view from Reagan's kitchen

Nicaragua

Largest and most sparsely populated country in the region.
Population: 2.7m.
Area: 57,100 sq miles.
Capital: Managua.



Government: Popular revolution in July 1979 led by Sandinista guerrillas overthrew hated dynasty established by Anastasio Somoza in 1936. Sandinists promised speedy elections, mixed economy, freedom of press and other liberties, but original governing Junta of National Reconstruction soon dominated by more hard-line left-wingers among *Comandantes* (notably Daniel Ortega, above) holding real power. Elections indefinitely postponed, opposition figures harassed and intimidated, independent press censored.

Military: Presence of up to 2,000 Cuban military advisers, plus some 75 Russian officers, draws extreme hostility of Reagan administration. Washington claims Cuban-style revolution exported via Nicaragua to El Salvador and other regional flash-points. Nicaragua's standing army of approximately 30,000 by far largest in region, backed by some 50,000 armed militia. Washington claims Soviet T-55 tanks, armoured cars and SAM anti-aircraft missiles arriving via Cuba, but border clashes with "Contras" (see Honduras) are still small-scale infantry engagements. US intelligence anticipates arrival soon of up to 50 Nicaraguans receiving Mig 21 pilot training in Bulgaria. Soviet helicopters already in use. Small navy recently fought minor battles with Hondurans off Pacific coast.

Economy: Sandinists inherited economy in ruins and looted national reserves after victory. Agriculture all-important. Outlook: Reagan administration's threatening attitude clearly worries Sandinists, who recently proposed regional peace talks. Support for Salvadoran guerrillas apparently reduced.

El Salvador

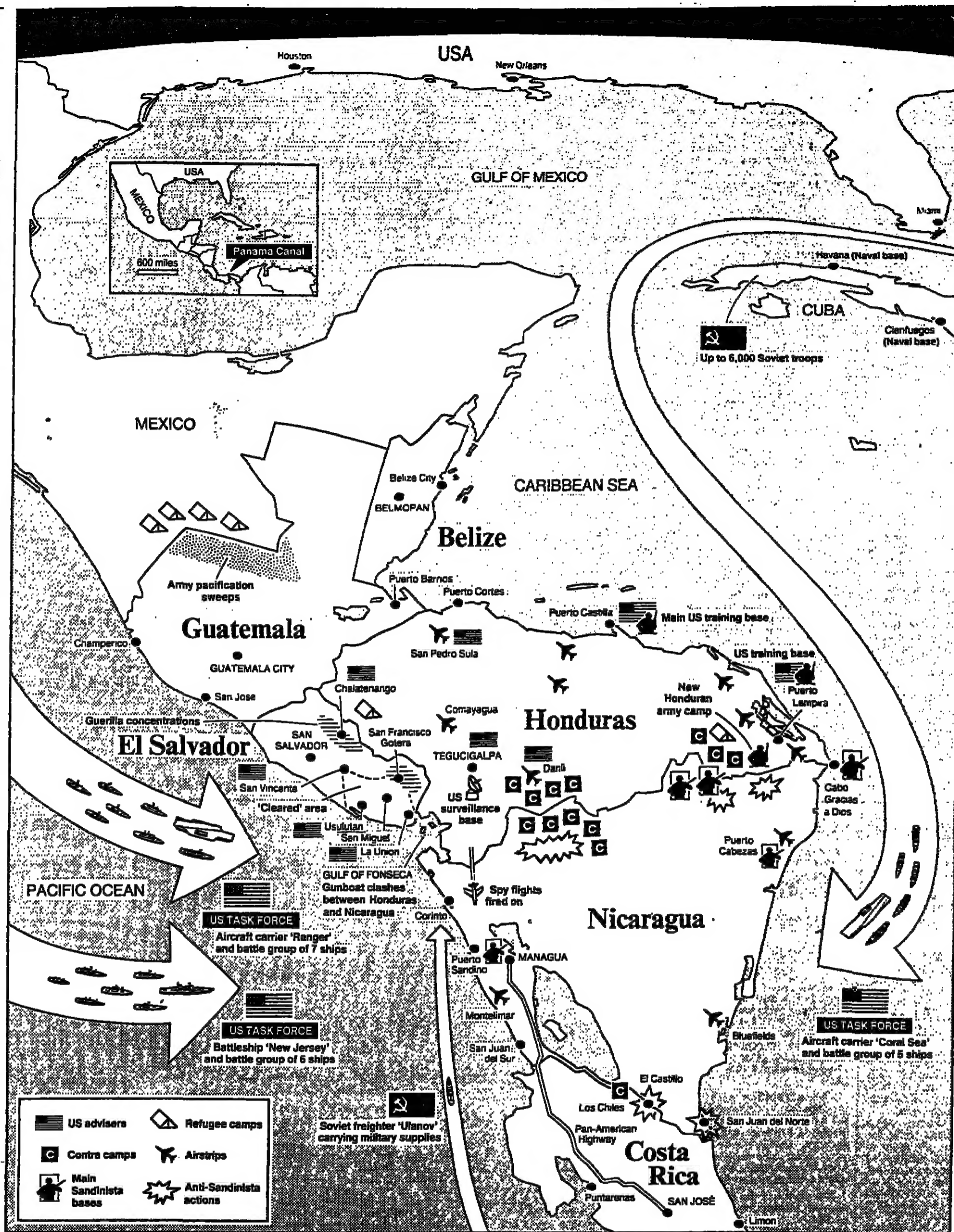
Smallest and most densely populated country in the region.
Population: 4.5m.
Area: 8,200 sq miles.
Capital: San Salvador.



Government: Popular coup in October 1979 replaced military dictatorship with military-civilian junta. Assembly elections in March 1982 returned right-wing coalition with small majority over Christian Democrats, largest single party. Provisional President, Dr. Alvarez Magana (above).

Military: Civil war between government forces and left-wing guerrilla groups has claimed some 35,000 lives since 1980, vast majority civilians killed by security forces and right-wing death squads. Salvadoran army currently 22,500 men, undergoing rapid expansion by compulsory conscription with aim of producing mobile counter-insurgency units on lines taught by approximately 35 US military advisers now stationed there. US-supplied medium artillery, heavy mortars, modern infantry weapons improving firepower.

Salvadoran air force, notoriously inept, has several Super Mystere fighters, A-37 ground attack planes, obsolete Ouragon bombers and US helicopter gunships. Small navy used



Costa Rica

Population: 2.2m.
Area: 19,650 sq miles.
Capital: San José.

Government: A true parliamentary democracy since 1949 (when the army was abolished). Present middle-of-road government of President Luis Alberto Monge voted in handsomely last year. Military: 5,000 lightly armed Civil Guards are only government force, with tiny navy and air force. US offers of military aid resisted in past in

pursuit of neutrality amidst Central American turmoil. Today, former Sandinista guerrilla hero Eden Pastora ("Comandante Zero") leads estimated 2,000 troops fighting Nicaraguan forces from bases along Costa Rica's northern border.

Economy: Severe problems face "the Switzerland of Central America", where per capita income of about £1,100 is highest in region. Collapsing world prices for main exports - coffee, sugar, bananas - vast external debts and three-figure inflation now battering Costa Ricans accustomed to good life.

Outlook: Gloomy. Regional tensions must impinge on Costa Rica.

Belize

Population: 145,000.
Area: 8,870 sq miles.
Capital: Belmopan.

Government: Some 1,500 British troops, Harrier jump-jet squadron and ground-to-air missiles defend Belize against Guatemala's claims.

Economy: Exports sugar, citrus fruits, timber. Per capita income about £450. Outlook: Possibility that US may resume arms supplies to Guatemala worries Belize and Britain.

Honduras

Poorest nation of a poverty-stricken region
Population: 4m.
Area: 43,250 sq miles.
Capital: Tegucigalpa.



Government: Civilian government elected in 1981 to end decade of military rule. Centrist Liberal party in power. President: Roberto Suazo Cordova (left).

Military: Honduras increasingly focus of Reagan administration's military strategy in Central America. Honduran army of approximately 17,000 to be sharply expanded. Air force most powerful in region with 12 Super Mystere fighters bought from Israel, US A-37 ground attack planes, troop transports and military helicopters. US plans big expansion of military aid, plus establishment of major base for training Salvadoran troops (cheaper and less visible than training in US). Up to 150 American military advisers, mainly Green Berets, to be stationed there. Military airfields being extended for possible use by US warplanes.

"Secret" but highly visible CIA operation created army of up to 10,000 Nicaraguans to destabilize Sandinista regime in Nicaragua. Leadership of the "Contras" (counter-revolutionaries) almost exclusively former members of Somoza's Nicaraguan National Guard.

Economy: Agriculture accounts for 80 per cent of all exports, mainly bananas, coffee, sugar, cotton, frozen meat, timber. Average per capita annual income approx. £300.

Outlook: Many Hondurans fear being sucked into major crisis behind Washington. US support for Honduran high command seen to threaten shaky new democracy, with human rights abuses - including death from torture - by security forces already increasing.

Guatemala

Population: 6.8m.
Area: 42,000 sq miles.
Capital: Guatemala City.



Government: Political tension running high as military regime of General Efraim Rios Montt (left), who seized power in March 1982 following contested elections,

is itself threatened by army coup. Military: Left-wing guerrillas in the field since mid-1950s, but no real evidence of external support. Ruthless pacification campaigns under Rios Montt in past 18 months cleared guerrillas from former strongholds, at terrible cost in army massacres of mostly Indian peasants.

Guatemalan conscript army numbers approx. 23,000 after recent expansion, mainly counterinsurgent infantry forces: some armoured units with light tanks. US embargo on military sales to Guatemala, imposed in 1977 as sanction against human rights abuses, circumvented by purchases from Israel.

Economy: Once flourishing on coffee, cotton, sugar, bananas but now disaster area as political uncertainty worsens effects of world recession.

Outlook: Reagan administration saw "good possibilities" in Rios Montt regime, implying resumption of US military aid. Atrocities and risk of coup make immediate policy planning tricky. Possibility of Washington overtures to Guatemala worries British because of longstanding dispute over Belize.

Commentary by Philip Jacobson
Illustration by John Grimwade

moreover... Miles Kingston

A pile-up in the race to be leader of the pack

The BBC is coming under mounting attack for staging a Young Labour Leader of the Year competition.

Due to take place in October, the contest would pick the young man judged most capable of leading the Labour Party into an election. But already the critics are saying that such a contest could only do harm to the career of the winner. Pitched into top-level politics in his forties or fifties, he will be forced to take decisions and make appearances for which he is hardly ready.

And they point to the inexperience of the two front-runners, neither of whom has ever led a party in his life before. In the run-up to the finals, Mr Neil Kinnock has already had a spectacular pile-

up on the M4 and Mr Roy Hattersley has crashed head-first into Mr Michael Foot, last winner of the now discontinued Old Labour Leader of the Year contest.

Put them at the controls of a whole political party, runs the argument, and who knows what damage might not ensue?

But the BBC Head of Heavy Entertainment and big Competitions, Mr Charles Channel, is unrepentant. He thinks that a Young Labour Leader of the Year contest is exactly what is wanted, not just by the public but by the party as well.

"It is absolute nonsense to say that a man in his forties could not run the Labour Party," he comments. "If he is old enough to vote, go to sexy films and travel full fare on the

railways, he is old enough to run the Labour Party. Heavens above, a child could run the Labour Party. Actually, there have been times in the last 10 years when I have got the impression that a child was running the Labour Party."

Such remarks are not designed to please the politicians. To be candid, they are designed specifically to displease the politicians. For Charles Channel knows as well as anyone the value of a bit of bad publicity. And sure enough, a leading Labour Party nonentity hit back last night at Channel's remarks.

"I want to get one thing absolutely straight," he told me last night. "Although I am not personally entering the contest, or at least not until all the other candidates have made total

idiots of themselves and they are looking for a good compromise choice, I entirely go along with what my colleagues have said on this matter. We must find out what the public want to hear, and then say it to them until we are blue in the face. Pink, rather. Sorry, what was the question again?"

What are your comments on Mr Channel's comments?

"I think they are beneath contempt. When I was a child in the North of England, many of us had to walk for hours every day picking up tram tickets in the street in order to complete our collection, and my father's life was cut tragically short by a disease he picked up in his work as a Sheffield Wednesday supporter though I can see, looking back, that he

may well have caught it off my tram ticket collection. We must make sure this kind of thing never happens again."

But surely this is exactly the kind of thing the public doesn't want to hear these days?

"Look, lad, who knows more about the popular taste of this country - the Labour Party or the BBC? No, on second thoughts, don't answer that question."

Meanwhile the BBC has confirmed that the contest is to go ahead in the autumn. It will be held in three stages. The finalists will first parade in Michael Foot's old suits. Then, dressed in working gear, they will be required to speak for a minute without stopping and without disclosing what subject they are talking about. Finally,

they will strip down to white collars and be asked by Sir Robin Day what they would like to do when they grow up.

"A harmless bit of fun," concludes Charles Channel. At least it's more dignified than being manhandled behind closed doors by trade union leaders."

SPECTRUM
on Monday:

New research shows that bad diet may provoke violence among the young

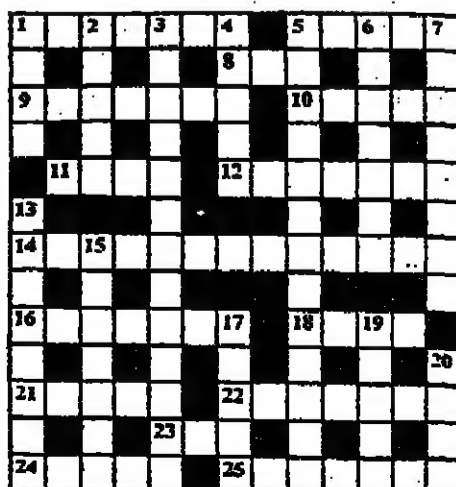
CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 114)

ACROSS

- 1 Disembarkation (7)
- 2 Dancing place (5)
- 3 Fuel reserve (5)
- 4 Amazing event (7)
- 5 Paddle boat (5)
- 6 Eager (4)
- 7 Swinging object (7)
- 8 Unsubstantial (13)
- 9 Put in request (7)
- 10 Smooth (5)
- 11 Board (12)
- 12 Adjuster (7)
- 13 Mountainous ridge (3)
- 14 Fill with optimism (5)
- 15 Surgery room (5)

DOWN

- 1 Crippled (4)
- 2 Bravery (5)
- 3 Unsubstantial (13)
- 4 Gnat (5)
- 5 Make pure (13)
- 6 Vest (7)
- 7 Supercade (8)
- 8 Throttle (8)
- 9 Petrol product (7)
- 10 Disturbed (5)
- 11 Group of eight (5)
- 12 Hill (4)



SOLUTION TO No 113

ACROSS: 1 Prefab 5 Arcade 8 Ups 9 Warren 10 Kimono 11 Style 12 Bowl over 13 Stated 15 Flimsy 17 Smash hit 20 Pact 22 Places 23 Holier 24 Toe 25 Trize 26 Soda
DOWN: 2 React 3 Fork 4 Buck bed 5 Ashew 6 Cane 7 Tankers 14 Tumbler 15 Fences 16 Impaled 18 Socks 19 Skate 21 Cheat
(Solution to No 114 on Monday) Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

مركز من الامم

Ordeal by witness box

Clare Dyer asks if the ends of justice require that a child of eight should be grilled to tears in a courtroom

The trial of the Coronation Street actor Peter Adamson, who was acquitted on Tuesday of indecently assaulting two eight-year-old girls, has highlighted the distress sex offence trials can cause the children who have to give evidence. Do the ends of justice really require that a child of eight should be grilled to the point of tears in the intimidating surroundings of a packed courtroom?

Though the Adamson case has focused public attention on the ordeal a child witness undergoes, a working party of lawyers and psychiatrists under the aegis of the Ciba Foundation has been grappling with the problem for nearly two years. "In many cases the police interview and the appearance in court are much more traumatic than the events leading up to them",

says Professor Sydney Brandon, a child psychiatrist and a member of the working party. How to strike a balance between the child's welfare and the right of the defendant to a fair trial poses a dilemma. It is a fundamental principle of British justice that the accused should be able to test the evidence against him by cross-examination in front of the jury. Cross-examination is crucial with child witnesses, because children can be suggestible or prone to fantasise.

The law makes some concessions to the vulnerability of child witnesses. Judges usually ban publication of any details which might identify the children involved. In sex offence cases, children are not ordinarily allowed to give evidence for the prosecution in the preliminary committal proceedings in the magistrates' court which precede a jury trial. This rule is designed to spare a child the ordeal of two court appearances.

In any case involving allegations of "conduct contrary to decency or morality" the judge can order the court to be cleared while the child gives evidence.

The judge also decides to what extent a child witness should receive special treatment. There are no official guidelines. Few go as far as the kindly old judge who dangled a small boy on his knee and allowed him to be used as a woolly toy.

Professor Brandon contends that the gestures of well-meaning judges do not go far enough to reduce the trauma of a court appearance.



"Children should be able to go along beforehand and become familiar with the courtroom. Whenever possible someone well known to the child should be present when he or she gives evidence. Very occasionally a child is able to see the courtroom in advance, but in my experience, arrangements of this sort almost always break down".

He also advocates that courts should be able to accept a videotape interview with the child in lieu of evidence in court. Helena Kennedy, a barrister member of the working party, strongly disagrees. "A defend-

ant must have the right to challenge the evidence against him by cross-examination", she says. "Even if you filmed the cross-examination as well, the jury would be seeing the tape at one remove. They wouldn't know, for instance, what had gone on before the filming started."

But Professor Brian Hogan, of Leeds University, an authority on criminal law, says: "I can't see any objection to videotape, as long as the defendant is present and there is an opportunity to cross-examine." Another suggestion put forward by child psychiatrists is that the court should be equipped with a room with one-way glass, so that the defendant could see and hear the child without being seen.

"The real problem arises when the child has been the victim of an assault and may be the only witness who can give direct evidence of it", Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, says. "This means reliving the experience in the presence of the alleged assailant."

"You can clear the court of all but essential participants, but the defendant must be present to hear the evidence against him. If a parent sits with a child while giving evidence there is a risk of prompting. To move from the court to a smaller room means that the child would be even closer to the defendant when giving evidence. Evidence given by remote or indirect means must be more difficult for the jury to weigh up."

The Ciba working party expects to report late this year, or early next.

Friends in need

From N. Y. Gray, 31 Sydney Buildings, Bath.

I am shocked that you should have published (Friday Page, July 22) the uninformed comment made by Mrs Ruby Williams, the woman wrongly accused of shoplifting, concerning the suicide of Lady Barnett after being charged with the same offence. "Where were her friends?" she asks.

I can answer her query as to the whereabouts of one of her friends, who is also a close friend of mine: she had taken Lady Barnett away to help her through the terrible time of waiting for the case to come up, and her attitude was that of all Lady Barnett's friends and acquaintances, one of deep sympathy with her situation and a desire to help in every possible way. The tragedy was that in the final analysis no one could help.

State benefits

From Mrs Jane Pegler, 29a Prinrose Mansions, Prince of Wales Drive, Battersea, SW11

Your Friday Page of July 22 includes an article entitled *Bringing up the Orphans of Disaster* in which it is suggested that only where there are no guardians available in an orphan's family circle, or where there is a dispute over who should care for the child, is it likely that the local authorities will have to "interfere" in his or her upbringing.

A case is then presented of two orphaned brothers, now adult, of whom the younger was apparently denied the opportunity both in his new home and at school to successfully mourn the loss of his parents. He was doubtless protected

TALKBACK

from - or, should I say, not afforded the possibility of benefiting from - the "interference" of his local authority because his circumstances were not those usually understood in the description "deprived child". Instead, he suffered what must surely be the greatest deprivation of all, denial of the opportunity to express and discuss his feelings.

Had local authority "interference" been sought, in the form of a social worker to share and tackle with the child and the newly formed family the painful task of confronting their bereavement, how much happier might have been the outcome for all concerned than this sad case history suggests.

Heavy duty

From Helen Signer, Byfleet, Surrey. As a sixth-former with more than one friend suffering from the slimmers' disease anorexia nervosa, I should like to point out that one of the causes of the illness lies with the media.

Although the fashion in past centuries has always been to be "bonny", the consuming passion since the 1960s has been to look unnaturally thin.

Models such as Twiggy initiated the fashion to look slim, and now all magazines are filled with pictures of thin women. Most advertisements, even those for fattening foods, use "skinny" models, and even dummies in shop windows are abnormally thin.

It is surprising that so many girls, having been brainwashed with the idea that true beauty can only be achieved after starving themselves, fall prey to anorexia?

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Saving on the birth rates

This week Louise Brown, the world's first test-tube baby, was five years old. Her success, and the successful birth of other's like her, guarantees that hundreds of thousands of pounds will be spent on establishing units for in vitro fertilization. But the need for these programmes might be reduced if the public was made more aware of the need for early and adequate treatment of all the contacts of sufferers from NSU or gonorrhoea.

Hammersmith Hospital is tackling another cause of infertility due to chronic pelvic inflammatory disease: for by no means all cases of tubal damage are due to the late result of sexually transmitted diseases. Some, it would appear from an analysis of all the cases admitted to the hospital over three months, are due to surgeons making matters worse by operating on the female pelvis without obeying the strict, but simple rules of microsurgical technique.

There are about a dozen points in the code, starting from the basic premise that the pelvis should only be opened if it is really essential and then with a wide incision using diathermy so that the blood does not escape into the peritoneal cavity; through to the simple instructions on the type of gloves, sutures and the appropriate swabbing solution, warned Hartmanns.

Mr Robert Winston, the gynaecologist, said although the Hammersmith runs short courses on this microsurgical technique, only 4 per cent of the places are taken by British doctors; they so far seem to have taken little interest in this important aspect of preventive medicine.

New strength

Over the past 70 years middle-aged men who complain of impotence have been in grave danger of being sentenced to

spending wearisome hours discussing their approach to sex and women. Many doctors involved in genito-urinary medi-

cine have long suspected that in the hunt for deep psychiatric complexes physical causes have been overlooked, and emotional explanations over-diagnosed.

Scientists are now confirming the physicians' suspicions. As well as the neurophysiologists who have studied changes in skin sensitivity as age increases, arterial surgeons have shown that in many cases the problem is due to a comparative failure of the blood supply to the genital organs. Doctors now accept that penile arteries can, like those leading to the heart muscle, brain or lower limbs, become narrowed with advancing years.

Two studies from Copenhagen, reported in Hospital Doctor, show that half the men attending a clinic for arterial disease admitted to being impotent. A third of these out-patients were considered suitable to have an operation to improve the blood supply to the lower limbs; half of these had their powers restored.

Old heads

Recent work by pathologists in Dundee suggests that women's brains show an effect of aging ten years earlier than those of men. A woman's brain starts to shrink when she is in her forties, a man's in his fifties. Many middle-aged women, however, take degrees, or professional qualifications. Their success is an interesting side light on the report in *Lancet* from Dr Beth Hubbard, aged 33, and Dr John Anderson of Dundee University.

Their research shows that although brain shrinkage starts earlier in women, once started the rate of decline is equal in the two sexes. Dr Anderson said that having begun their joint investigations they were hoping to continue with them, for at the moment they did not even know if the early weight loss in the female brain was due to a loss of brain cells or fluid.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Medical Correspondent

The nurses' complaint

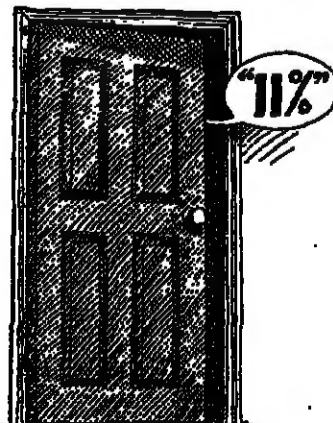
COMMENT

The Homes Fit for Nurses Campaign launched recently by *Nursing Mirror*, breaks into Parliament today with a call by Mr Timothy Yeo, Conservative MP for Suffolk South, for improvements to nurses' accommodation.

The campaigners will argue, rightly, that nurses' hostels are in a bad state of repair and they will press the Department of Health and Social Security to spend money on doing them up. The Government will argue that it is a matter for local health authorities and that guidelines on standards for accommodation will be released next year. The Government is unlikely under the present level of pressure to find any special money for the nurses.

Money would not do any harm to nurses' hostels. It would, for example, make some safe by rewiring them and hygienic by repairing the plumbing. It is a scandal that because they are crown property, hostels escape any regular inspection, enforceable safety precautions and in many cases basic repairs.

Richard Dowden



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THE TIMES DIARY

On the rails

Though the Government has decided to appoint an outsider as part-time chairman of British Rail in succession to Sir Peter Parker, no appointment will be announced while BR's chief executive, Bob Reid, is absent on tour as president of the Chartered Institute of Transport. This civility, greater than sometimes shown to bosses in nationalized industries, reflects how Reid has commended himself in Government circles as author of the scheme dividing the railways into five separately accountable sectors, and by shedding 1,000 people a month. He will continue as chief executive while the Government decide, in the wake of the abandoned Serpell report, what they want to do about the railways. The new environment secretary, Tom King, says he still has an icepack on his head at present.

Toot sweet

While relations between Herbert von Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra remain tenuous, a violinist, the pretty clarinetist who occasioned their discord is getting along well enough with her new colleagues. Sabine Meyer, whose appointment at the age of 22 as principal clarinetist was forced through by Karajan against a storm of male chauvinist protest, has just made her first recording. It is of Mozart's clarinet quintet and a set of Weber variations, and she is accompanied sweetly enough, by four of the orchestra's string players.

One-horse race

In the Sefion Benevolent Stakes, *Sefion: The Horse for Any Year*, compiled by publisher Jeremy Greenwood of Quiller Press, took a quick lead with an immediate £5,000 advance royalties paid to the officer commanding the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment to set up a fund for children of the cavalrymen killed in Hyde Park. More will follow. John Watson, author of *Sefion: The Story of a Cavalry Horse*, and former commander in the Blues of Sefion's squadron has pledged £2,000 to the Household Cavalry's charitable funds, and his publishers, Souvenir Press, will be contributing an undisclosed proportion of their royalties. We could be about to witness the first photo-finish featuring only one horse.

BARRY FANTONI



Alas, I'd hoped for the part of man selling tickets at the door

Nobody nose

Following my adverse comments on the dreadful Drakkar Noir after-shave, a senior editorial executive at *The Times* crept up behind me and sprayed me with the stuff. You did not know that senior editorial executives at *The Times* were so playful, did you? The joke backfired though. For the rest of the day colleagues kept coming up to me and saying: "I don't see how you can criticize Drakkar. That awful pong you're wearing must be infinitely worse."

Odoriferous

In my unavoidably smelly condition (see above), I was all the more worried by this sentence in Roy Hattersey's *Punch* column on newspaper coverage of Peter Adamson's trial: "Whether or not dog eats dog in Fleet Street, each of the hounds - the Crufts thoroughbreds hardly less than the RSPCA mongrels - feels an irresistible urge to sniff around the lamp-posts that others of the species have fouled." I spent the day trying to keep downwind of everybody.

Chariots of wire

Where do supermarket trolleys go to die? John Pfeffer of Colchester specializes in finding out and recovering the wayward contraptions, which cost £25 each. His latest haul from the river Chelmer was 100 trolleys, and he has salvaged more from car parks, waterworks, waste ground and people's houses in Colchester, Chelmsford and Ipswich. "I have seen children making go-karts out of them," he says.

A keen student of prices, PHS notes that the Sheraton Park Tower's Champagne of the Month is Perrier-Jouet at £1.95 for a glass containing more than one-sixth of a bottle. Yet ask for a bottle and that costs £23.50, twice the price of wine by the glass. No doubt readers have more examples of confusing pricing policies. I will pass on the most glaring, to the benefit, I hope, of all.

PHS

Wanted: another Wilberforce

by Patrick Cormack

It is tragically ironic that many of the events being held to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of William Wilberforce are being organized by the Anti-Slavery Society. The greatest backbench reformer in parliamentary history would hardly have rejoiced to think that there was still a need for the society which he helped to found in 1823 though he would have rejoiced to think that it was still rigorously exposing the exploitation of man by man.

This week also marks the 150th anniversary of what Wilberforce fondly hoped was the culmination of his life's work: the passing by the British Parliament of a Bill abolishing slavery throughout the British Colonies. Though Britain, with its powerful and vigilant Navy and its mastery of the seas, could enforce the will of Parliament throughout those colonies, slavery flourished long after Wilberforce's death. Mauritania abolished slavery only three years ago - and in so doing set the seal on the universal abolition of the name - but the practice still persists.

Despite Mauritania's action, no date has yet been fixed for the agreed visit to that country of a team from the United Nations Human Rights Commission which has been charged with investigating the circumstances that have led to an estimated 100,000 people remaining as slaves in the West African State. Although there is no outright opposition to the international visit, the authorities have made the prevaricating suggestion that it would be inappropriate unless all the senior members of the Mauritania government could be present. Wilberforce knew these delaying tactics well.

Wilberforce was subject to many a virulent attack by those who had a vested interest in the slave trade and today the Anti-Slavery Society suffers similarly. Recently the Philippine government lashed out after the publication of the society's report

"The Philippines: Authoritarian Government, Multinationals and Ancestral Lands", which accuses the President Marcos administration of wholesale violation of the human rights of six and a half million tribal people. It was carefully researched, but that has not prevented the Philippine government from charging the society with producing "irresponsible and brazen lies".

Also of particular concern is the way in which the Haitian sugar workers are exploited. Those who worked in the eighteenth century plantations excited Wilberforce's special concern. Today thousands of Haitians are transported each year to the neighbouring Dominican Republic, and sold for the season for \$11 a head. The Duvalier family in Haiti were in 1979 paid \$70 dollars a labourer. The workers received \$1.30 for each ton of sugar-cane cut.

The Society's leaflet, "William Wilberforce's Work is not yet finished... cites examples of exploitation in places as different as Beverly Hills, California, and the Republic of China. At the former, FBI agents arrested 10 people on slave-trading charges, accusing them of enticing at least 50 young Indonesians to the United States and selling them there as house servants. In January this year the Chinese police revealed that between 1976 and 1980 600 Zhuan women were abducted and held in conditions of slavery less than seventy miles from Peking.

We know that in Pakistan the police have arrested Bangladeshis on slave-trafficking charges as recently as March, and that month the Indian newspaper *Current* estimated that there were 3,000 child prostitutes in Bombay alone, with strong evidence of the organized kidnapping for the trade of young children from remote villages

in Nepal. We know, too, that in Bangkok children are bought for \$45 to \$75 to work in factories and brothels.

In India an estimated 6.5 million labourers are enslaved through the illegal system of debt bondage; and in Brazil poor people are enslaved through "the yoke" - a vicious system of entrapment through fake labour contracts, phony deductions from wages and false purchases from company stores.

Wilberforce was able to campaign within a sovereign Parliament, knowing that his efforts could achieve success. Today, as we commemorate his achievements, we cannot fail to be daunted by greater difficulties of contemporary campaigners who must penetrate other sovereign states which are very much less democratic than pre-Reform Bill Britain. What, for instance, of those countless millions denied the elementary rights, which we take for granted, in the Soviet Union and its satellites?

The modern backbencher is bound to wonder whether anyone today, entrapped by the harsh discipline of the party system, could ever achieve what Wilberforce achieved. In an article in *The Times* marking the centenary of his death, Trevelyan said of the 20 or 30 Evangelicals who gathered around Wilberforce, and who always put principles before party, that "they looked to the facts of the case and not to the wishes of the minister".

Any backbencher who has ever gone against his party line on any issue has some idea of the difficulty of acting in that manner today, and yet, surveying the Parliament of 1983, one cannot help wondering whether it would not be a stronger and more democratic House were such a group to exist.

The author is Conservative MP for Staffordshire South.

Living with hate in Hebron



Crowds of Israeli pacifists of the Peace Now movement on a protest march in Hebron

by Christopher Walker

Jerusalem
An introverted and unfriendly city where 70,000 Palestinians live cheek by jowl with some 4,500 heavily armed and newly arrived Jewish settlers, Hebron is now the fashionable location for visiting television crews to "take the pulse" of the occupied West Bank. The cameramen can often be seen when the bearded settlers, complete with prayer shawls and shoulder-slung rifles, strut through the narrow streets to the Cave of Machpelah, the site holy to both them and the Islamic majority because it is the burial place of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The undisputed hatred of the onlooking Arabs provides just the type of footage required.

Tuesday's random attack on the Muslim university, widely believed to have been perpetrated by extreme Jews crudely disguised in Arab headgear, has apparently justified the news judgment of the network bosses: the stifling city on the edge of the Judean desert is now the crucible where the biblically inspired West Bank policy of the Begin government will be most severely tested. Unlike other heavily populated West Bank areas, Hebron is a place where the settlers actually live their daily lives among the Arabs, with whom most proclaim a wish for co-

existence. The towering Jewish suburb of Kiryat Arba has sprouted a move into the city centre, where 20 large Jewish families now live, surrounded by the ugly paraphernalia of occupation, barbed wire, searchlights and a permanent armed guard. It can have come as little surprise to Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, as he conferred in Washington about Lebanon, to have heard that the most immediate security problem facing him was nearer home in Hebron - a city now more famous for intercommunal violence than for its glassware or grapes.

The question after the unprecedented attack which killed three students and wounded 33 more is whether he will now be able to maintain the reputation for fairness he has sought to cultivate among the Palestinians, most of whom deeply suspect his hawkish views. These were most openly expressed on the eve of his departure for America when he argued that the only defensible eastern border for Israel was the Jordan river.

Mr Arens went on to predict that Israeli sovereignty would ultimately be applied to the 2,200 square miles of the West Bank - the overriding

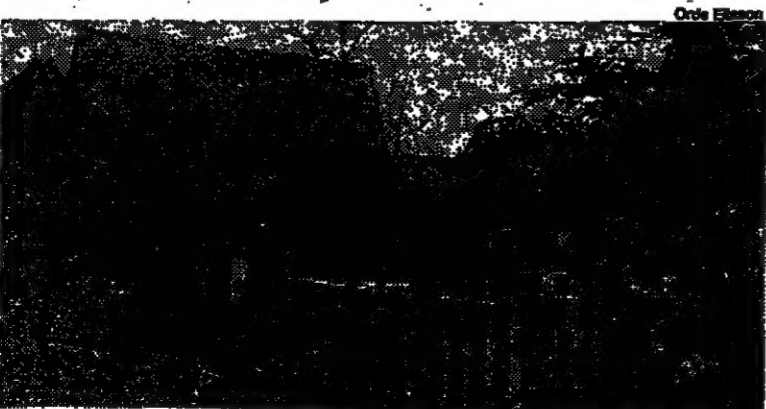
summons to the military governor at midnight, sacked and then forced to walk home.

There is no question that the Jews of Kiryat Arba (a name first mentioned in Chapter 23 of the Book of Genesis) feel that the government is not giving them adequate protection against the rocks thrown by the hostile Arab majority. That was graphically demonstrated to me last week when I met their leader, Rabbi Moshe Levinger, uncomfortably camping outside the Israeli headquarters to demand tougher security. "This is not an occupied area," he argued, "it belongs to the Jewish people."

But Palestinian leaders note bitterly that even though the government termed the occupation of a former Jewish hospital in the city centre in 1979 as illegal, nothing was ever done to prevent the rabbi's Brooklyn-born wife Miriam and 40 supporters from remaining there.

Only swift justice for the perpetrators of Tuesday's atrocity will help calm the present dangerous level of tension, being held in check only by a blanket curfew of the area, and even that will do no more than reduce it to a level that still would be unacceptable in a similarly sized conurbation in almost any other part of the world.

Have barn, will travel...



Going places? Brockley Hill Barn near Stanmore

complex of farm buildings in this area. It's one of the only complete pre-Victorian farmsteads to survive in North Middlesex.

"If the council wants to spend all this money why can't it repair the barn where it is? If the GLC will not do it, sell the freehold to someone who is willing and able. I am very concerned they are depriving the borough of Harrow of a listed building to give it to Hillingdon." Mr Castle thinks that the burghers of Harrow should never have allowed London Transport, which bought the land to extend the Northern Line before the war, to let the barn fall into such a state and sentence it to a suburban museum, propped by nasty children with sharp pen-knives.

Harrow council defended the GLC's Dr Barnados-for-barns plan. "It has been said that the barn should be reinstated on the site," said a spokesman. "However, the site is owned by London Transport, which has a tenant on the farm. The tenant has a fully repairing lease but

properly, would also cost twice as much.

Jack Richardson, the chairman of Stanmore and Harrow Historical Society, said: "I would rather the developer who has already renovated one barn on his land, repaired this one in situ. We want the barn kept together."

Since the old farmer died, campers have been using the Grade II timbered barn for fires. While the GLC fiddles, the barn burns.

Stephen Castle said the case gives cause for national concern. He added: "It is important that listed buildings be preserved where they are. To transfer them up and down the country is against the very idea of listing them."

Where will it end? The GLC may decide to relocate the Palace of Westminster in Plaistow to give MPs a taste of working-class life. Moving house would have a different meaning and Red Ken's barn could entertain the Mayor of Moscow's dacha or an IRA turf lodge.

A GLC spokesperson said: "The private sector never came into the question of the barn. Resources have just been earmarked to remove it and it could be started this week or in the near future. However, the barn will have to wait until the next financial year for money to be approved for its restoration. Eventually, possibly in 1985, it will be in public use in a farm museum and that was our prime consideration."

As for many commuters the journey of a whole year is somewhat longer than expected. This is plainly not the age of the barn.

Paul Pickering

David Watt

Domestic ills the doctor can't cure

The appointment of Dr Henry Kissinger as the chairman of the new American Commission on Central America is a very bad omen, I say this not out of any disrespect for Dr Kissinger. On the contrary, I regard him, for all his great personal weaknesses, as the most creative and successful practitioner of international relations that the US has possessed since Dean Acheson and, for all I know, since Benjamin Franklin. He knows little or nothing about the subject of his inquiry, but never mind. He is a fast learner. The trouble is simply that he has been appointed for the two worst reasons.

First, he has been appointed primarily to solve a domestic and not an external problem. The American foreign policy consensus has completely broken down on this issue. A Congress controlled by the Democrats is refusing to vote the money necessary for the fulfilment of the Administration's declared purposes in the area. Congress is hesitant about throwing money into the training of the Government's army in El Salvador and even more loath to back right-wing guerrillas in the attempt to undermine the left-wing government of neighbouring Nicaragua. The resulting chaos is bad for American credibility both in Central America and in the world at large. But with a presidential election year fast approaching, it is bad for Ronald Reagan as well. Kissinger's primary function from the point of view of the White House is to tempt some prominent Democrats into playing a part in the commission and to report in such a way that the issue is at least partly defused before the first primary elections of 1984.

The substance of the matter is evidently less important than this, that insofar as Kissinger is supposed to produce a genuine answer in Central America, his appointment testifies more to the desperation and confusion of the Administration than anything else. President Reagan's strategic objectives and Kissinger's qualifications simply do not match.

What the President says he wants in Central America is (a) to maintain US supremacy in its own "backyard" and (b) to keep out the Russians. As more proximate aims he wants to prevent Nicaragua from becoming another Cuba and to civilise as well as stabilise the regime in El Salvador. It is highly debatable whether any of these goals can actually be achieved by any means at this late hour, but what is certain is that they are not within the reach of a "fixer" like Dr Kissinger, even in the most favourable circumstances, which these are not.

To illustrate the point, let us suppose that Richard Nixon were President again and Kissinger his Secretary of State. Their first approach to the problem would no doubt be to go straight to the top. "Yuri," Dr Kissinger would say to Mr Andropov, "you know me. Let's do a deal." And the deal would be some ingenious mixture of stick and carrot on a global scale - a threat, say, to cause more trouble for the Russians in Afghanistan if they do not cease support for the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua and the anti-government guerrillas in El Salvador, coupled with a vague promise of greater American flexibility in the Start talks in Geneva or a hint about Soviet interests in the Middle East.

This deal would be all very well except that it would not make the slightest difference on the ground in

Central America. The Sandinistas in Nicaragua, who are buying arms from all over the shop and not simply from the Russians, would continue to ship them across Honduras to the FMLN in El Salvador because they are nationalist revolutionaries, fundamentally opposed to the reimposition of an American suzerainty over the region and because indigenous social forces favour a revolt.

This failure would puzzle Messrs Nixon and Kissinger who would conclude from the evidence that the Soviets had cheated on their bargain rather than perceiving that the bargain was virtually irrelevant to their regional problems. They would turn to, and try to do a deal instead with the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua. "We will give you lots of money if you will stop, and we will get the CIA to arm your right-wing opponents if you don't." Perhaps for a while this might have its effect but the almost unanimous evidence of experts on the area is that, that would not solve the problem of El Salvador or stabilize Guatemala and Honduras because, once again, the problem has its roots deep in the history and abominable economics of the region.

The real position after 30 years of American neglect and local military misrule is that the American Administration faces a much starker choice. Either it must adopt the benevolent "hands-off" policy advocated by Mexico and other members of the Contadora group, recognizing that this may result in the region being dominated for a time by anti-Yankee and even Marxist nationalism; or it must go in for a share of serious superpower power force by the kind applied by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan or by the US itself in Guatemala in the 1950s.

There are the gravest drawbacks to this latter option, the most obvious of which is that military measures, even on a grand scale, might not work. The consequences of that would be a mini-Vietnam and another bitter division of American public opinion. On the other hand, if Central America is simply allowed to "go communist", which is how it will be presented by the right wing (and indeed how it will probably appear to President Reagan), what effect will that have on a sore, frustrated, volatile American public? We are still paying in a sense, for the humiliation suffered by the US in Vietnam and the prospect of another outburst of Latin American nationalism is appalling.

President Reagan, not unnaturally, wants to evade this logic which is why he has sent for Dr Kissinger, the master of the half-diplomatic, half-military solution. What he has perhaps overlooked is the fact that Kissinger's supreme achievement was to extricate the US from Vietnam with less humiliation than might otherwise have been the case under a smokescreen of hopes and North Vietnamese promises that he never really believed. This, I take it, is not what President Reagan intends in Central America; nor, indeed, could a second deliberate exercise in retreat be conducted with any pretence of face-saving.

Kissinger can gain time but he cannot hold back the tide of events by his methods nor on the evidence of his previous record does he have the political credibility or persuasive power to reconcile the American democracy to the requirements of a world role.

Philip Howard

Britannia, a piece of Turkish delight

Rule Britannia: marmalade and jani.

Five Chinese crackers... But apologetics, Philip. Stop being facetious. I had not thought much about Britannia until the other day. I knew that Frances Stewart, Charles II's mistress, was the model for Britannia when she first appeared on our copper coinage in 1665. Pepsy: "The king's new medal, where in little, there is Mrs Stewart's face. And a pretty thing it is, that he should choose her face to represent Britannia by." Frances was rewarded for her services to the Mint by being created Duchess of Richmond. I had imagined Britannia, when I thought about her, as being somewhat more robust than Frances Stewart: something like Mrs Thatcher, wearing a coal scuttle on her head, holding a shield and trident, and belting it out at the last night of the Proms.

It came as something of a shock the other day to learn that they have just discovered the first sculptural representation of Britannia in ancient art in south-western Turkey of all places. And that far from being a victorious virago, our national eponymous deity is portrayed on her first appearance in art as bare-breasted, semi-recumbent, having her hair pulled, and in a state of anguish and alarm, not surprising since she is about to have her head cut off.

I met the original Britannia at the summer school in Greek and Latin epigraphy at the Institute of Classical Studies in London. Well, the Editor likes his chaps to visit the front line, where the hard news is really at. And in any case the study of carvings on stone has a particular attraction for backs who write, if not in water, at any rate on flimsy grey paper that is used for lining drawers or lighting fires on the day after publication.

Epigraphy may seem to outsiders a small and obscure fragment of scholarship. In fact there are an appallingly large number of recorded

inscriptions: perhaps half a million in Latin and Greek. And more turn up every day. It is a stone-field that has tended to be dominated by Germans of immeasurable learning, and Frenchmen of brutal acuity. The summer school was a timid English - or British, since the Scots are particularly well versed in epigraphy - bid to be seen to be active in the field.

Epigraphists descended on London from the round earth's stony corners. The sensation of the party was Britannia, presented by Joyce Reynolds, reader in Roman history at Cambridge, and her sidekick, Charlotte Roueché. Joyce has been working since 1966 on recording for publication the inscriptions found during the current excavations at Aphrodisias in Caria. Aphrodisias is a city barely mentioned in any literary text. A decently informed Greek man of 20 years ago might, and indeed had, never heard of it.

In the late 1960s the excavators, led by Professor Kenan Erim, started to uncover a series of inscribed documents, recording the relations of the city with Rome from the middle of the first century BC. J. Caesar, anxious to make propaganda about his family connexion with Aphrodite, favoured the city named after the Goddess, Octavian, always quick to spot the main chance, carried on his uncle's policy. The stones of Aphrodisias have transformed our understanding of the relationships between ruler and ruled, solely on the basis of epigraphic material. Now they have uncovered a processional route leading to a temple of the imperial cult. The most remarkable sculptured relief, conveniently labelled, shows an improbably macho Claudius beating up poor old Britannia. It is the earliest figure of Britannia ever found. And it shows that she started her life, not as ruler of the waves, but as a racist insult, rather like Argie in the epigraphy of the pop press today.

سكنا من الامم



Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

TRUE AND FALSE PATRIOTS

representative Irish visitors on this week. Mr Peter y. the Irish Foreign Minis- and Mr Gerry Adams, the playing member of Parlia- for West Belfast, leave with a reason for satisfaction. Mr ms can savour the music of a ding ovation in the Finsbury n Hall. It is music of a rather ialized kind, made by Isling- socialists and members of don's Irish community who ally support the Armalite native, both species being ics in the political fauna of and.

r Adams may also derive a handed satisfaction from g told by the Home Sec- y that he will not be igned to visit IRA prisoners is island: for that may place at the centre of a fracas over ammentary privilege and utive infringement, which is agreeable place for a pol- n in the business of tabilization" to be. Not all will be happy to see their inary ex officio freedom of ss to prisoners, especially constituents, abridged. The that Mr Adams has not n, and has no intention of g, the oath and therefore his in Parliament does not a constitutional issue, in as there is one. He may not r vote but he "is entitled to the other privileges of a r (but not to his salary), g regarded, both by the se and by the laws, as se to serve until some r disqualification has been n to exist" (Erskine May).

But Mr Adams is at least an abettor and political sponsor of a terrorist organization dedicated to the forcible detachment of part of the kingdom. For Irish republican prisoners imprisonment is a continuation of subversion by other means. To have Mr Adams in and out as comforter and coordinator is not acceptable on the grounds of security. Mr Brittan's ban is well merited. The considerations underlying it have more weight than parliamentary punctilio.

Mr Peter Barry's three days in England meeting ministers, members of Parliament and many others were for the primary purpose of lubricating relations between Ireland and the United Kingdom. These relations, in his words, "have gone through a difficult patch and they are now being fully normalized at the level of Government". The difficult patch is his delicate reference to the post Falklands chill induced by his predecessors in office in Dublin. The truth of his assertion that relations have warmed up again was attested by the one rabbit that was pulled out the hat for his visit.

This is the initiation of an Anglo-Irish Encounter organization, a non-governmental body to run conferences and seminars on cultural and social matters of common interest, a sort of green Koenigswinter. The idea is based on a disused section of the report of November 1981 of joint committees of British and Irish officials established by an earlier prime ministerial

meeting. It is the kind of worthy idea officials think of when they have to think of something. It is the kind of idea that has to wait for its natal day until harmony reigns once more. And it is the kind of idea that can scarcely alarm even the most conspiracy-obsessed Ulster unionist (though perhaps one should not bet on that).

Mr Barry saw Sir Geoffrey Howe. There are important differences of interest between the United Kingdom and Ireland in the matters of the Community budget and agricultural spending. But they are not the sort of differences that need cloud the working relations of the two governments.

In a speech to the Anglo-Irish Parliamentary Group at Westminster Mr Barry expressed his government's concern for the health of the democratic process in Northern Ireland in view of Sinn Féin's progress at the polls. He ascribes this development to loss of faith in the political process on the nationalist side through repeated frustration of their hopes. He is now looking to his government's initiative in the form of the New Ireland Forum at Dublin Castle to do something to restore the Northern nationalist confidence in the political process. Mr Prior will have listened to his elaboration of these thoughts, with interest, and passivity. One initiative, at a time is more than enough for that initiative-ridden province. Mr Prior may perhaps be thankful that this one is some- body else's.

BEATABLE AND UNBEATABLE

's a rabbiting shame, Bunter', tested Bob Cherry with as much phrasal as the exigencies of a stiff lip would allow. "Just muse your Pater's a beastly Wet, to get six of the best for raiding that pear-tree, while you were left fair and square too, and all the getting is a thousand lines - I'll trim it to the point at that!"

Mr. Koenigswinter, the idea is based on a disused section of the report of November 1981 of joint committees of British and Irish officials established by an earlier prime ministerial

the use of the law on their children. To implement that decision (which was concerned with parents' rights, not children's) only three courses were possible: to abandon corporal punishment in state schools; to make sure that parents everywhere were in reach of a state school where corporal punishment was banned; or to allow parents to opt out individually in schools that used the cane.

Britain is now the only country in Europe to sanction the use of the cane in its state schools. There is no compelling evidence that our children are naughtier than theirs. But many, perhaps most, parents and teachers still approve of the cane as a last resort punishment. The Government was therefore unwilling to ban it; and ensuring that all parents could find a school where it was not used was thought to be impossible. So the Government fell back on parental discretion - a solution which the Scottish Lord Advocate rejected when putting the Government's case to the Court, on the excellent grounds that it was a fundamental principle that children in a school should be equally treated.

One other course was possible in theory - prevarication. States signing the European Conven-

tion on Human Rights undertake to abide by the Court's decisions in cases where they are parties. But the Court has no means of enforcing its decisions, and the sanction of expulsion from the Council of Europe (applied in the 1960s in the case of Greece) is in this context impracticable. Only last week the Government made a mockery of a ruling of the other European Court in respect of EEC requirements on equal pay for women, when an Order which made only a token gesture towards implementation was moved by a junior minister under instructions to make plain by his demeanour the Government's contempt for this aspect of Britain's treaty obligations.

It is to Sir Keith Joseph's credit that he has taken no such ignominious course. The steady flow of similar cases heading towards the Court would have made the attempt most embarrassing to sustain. The plan proposed is unsatisfactory to all parties though it is brought forward in good faith as a workable solution. The alternative is to ensure at the earliest practicable time that parents have within range a school that does not use corporal punishment. In areas where there is only one school, it will have to be that one.

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COLOMBO'S CRISIS

news from Sri Lanka this week has recalled the horrifying scenes leading up to the division of India thirty-six years ago. Hindu-Muslim-Sikh massacres of that time are reflected in bloodshed, arson, looting and has sent thousands of innocent Tamils running for safety wherever they can find it. It is, it must be emphasized, minority community whose status as citizens of Sri Lanka could be unquestionable. Happily, ever since Sri Lanka came independent in 1948, the street of Sinhalese nationalism turned with envious anger at this community that played a part in Sri Lanka's political and occasional life under British rule out of proportion to its numbers.

The most recent events have revealed a culpable bias on the part of the forces of order. Early reports of rioting in Colombo were met with a police response that was slow to intervene. Reports of action by naval units in Trincomalee and some recent army actions have suggested that reprisals are their aim, more likely to simulate than to pacify. Worse than this, evidence of official inhumanity to the Tamils has been the government's failure to respond to the palpable tension aroused two months ago when municipal and parliamentary elections were held. The campaign was said to be more like the civil war than an election. Since then violence has followed with action and reprisal until the incident last week when thirteen soldiers were killed in an ambush by Tamil terrorists. The government should have been better prepared than they seem

to have been for what has happened all over the country during the past week.

Needless to say, if one looks back over the history of the last thirty-five years there is blame to be put on both sides in the struggle over the rights and status of the Tamil community. Only in the last few years have events brought on a crisis of which the outcome can only be tragic unless national sentiment can be pulled together to prevent it. On the one hand the Tamil United Liberation Front, now the main representative Tamil body, has been insistent in its demand for a separate Tamil state in the north of the island - Eelam - a demand which in the eyes of many Sinhalese has given new force to the long-standing conflict. To this has been added on the Tamil side the emergence of the terrorist youth group - Tamil Tigers - disappointed by the response to peaceful agitation. Already they have a record of murders of police, attacks on soldiers and an unyielding attitude of belligerence that has cowed some of the moderates in the Tamil parliamentary party.

This sharpening of the issue and of the line-up of forces has taken a different and unforeseen form in Sinhalese political life. In 1977 Mrs Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party lost heavily in the election that returned the right-wing United National Party led by Mr J R Jayewardene. Since then the SLFP has been further torn by a family split. With other opposition parties fading into small pockets, the leading, because numerically strongest, opposition party has

been TULF. Thus the UNP, always the home of the strongest anti-Tamil feeling, has been the more uninhibitedly outspoken, thanks to its dominance in parliament. In October, under the terms of his own revision of the constitution, Mr Jayewardene stood for election as president and was handsomely returned. Two months later he called a referendum on his proposal to extend the life of the present parliament, and here again he collected his solid vote excepting only the total opposition of the Tamil electorate.

Unfortunately Mr Jayewardene's national popularity by no means extends to his party. He was aware of this at last year's election and he has since culled some of his less appealing supporters, but not enough to erase a strongly anti-Tamil flavour. The result is that the Tamil problem is not subject to sufficient opposition scrutiny in parliament. After last year's riots Mr Jayewardene saw the danger he faced as a politically dominant but lone leader of an unpopular party faced by increasing Tamil violence and increasing anti-Tamil fury. He then said that if he could not be proud of his party it would be better for him to retire from the leadership and make way for those who believed, as he put it, that the burning of innocent people and property was a way to solve the problems that faced Sri Lanka's multi-racial, multi-religious, multi-caste society. Can he now, aged 77, lead Sri Lanka away from the path of growing communal violence that threatens it? It is hard to see any other political leader who could.

Reflections on a 70th birthday

From Sir Ian Gilmore, MP for Chesham and Amersham (Conservative)

Sir, In your article celebrating Mr Begin's birthday (*The Times*, July 23) you say that "the view from Jerusalem is now incomparably more healthy than it was when he became Prime Minister six years ago". And that "All in all Mr Begin at 70 has cause for satisfaction".

Let us look at his causes for satisfaction and the way in which the view from Jerusalem has been improved. In March, 1978, shortly after his birthday, Prime Minister Mr Begin sent the Israeli Army into Lebanon and, during a short campaign which achieved nothing, up to 2,000 Lebanese and Palestinian civilians were killed.

In July, 1981, he ordered his air force to bomb Beirut and another 300 civilians lost their lives. Last year he invaded Lebanon yet again in an operation that resulted in the destruction of much of Tyre, Sidon and Beirut, the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian refugees at Sabra and Chatila, and a casualty list estimated at more than 20,000 dead and 30,000 wounded, 90 per cent of whom were civilians.

This wholly unjustified and unnecessary war has cost the lives of more than 500 Israeli soldiers and brought Mr Begin considerable criticism from his fellow countrymen. Mr Shimon Argov, the former Ambassador in London, has said that "only charlatans can say that the war was worthwhile".

Another cause of satisfaction for Mr Begin is, no doubt, his highly oppressive occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, his grabbing of thousands of acres of Arab land, and the brutal treatment of the Palestinian population (amply documented by the Israeli press and your Jerusalem Correspondent).

Those who believe that Israel's destiny lies in aggression and continued expansion will doubtless think that Mr Begin's sabotage of the Camp David Agreement and his immediate rejection of last year's Reagan Plan have made Israel's position "incomparably healthier" than would a willingness to come to terms with the Palestinians.

That such an article as "Mr Begin's birthday" can appear in *The Times* instead of a Zionist newspaper in New York clearly gives that gentleman further cause for satisfaction. The Arab world, as you rightly say, is in dismay and Israel is overwhelmingly the preponderant military power. Your suggestion that "the world should stand back a little and let raw facts do their work on local minds" is in these circumstances merely a discreditable formula for an unconditional surrender by the isolated and defenceless Palestinians.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
IAN GILMORE,
House of Commons.
July 26.

Conservation cuts

From Mrs Sheila Chapman

Sir, Attention has been drawn (Martin Caroe, June 27) to the apparent lack of interest manifested by the Crafts Council in its highly successful conservation sponsorship. This is still a disaster. Expert and well trained conservators are still in short supply and when trained almost invariably find satisfactory employment.

The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS), a large voluntary body which provides assistance with many projects through its voluntary conservation corps, depend on teaching by experts to enable them to do useful primary jobs in houses and churches. Their adviser in library conservation was trained with the aid of the Crafts Council and without his advice they would be at a loss for careful scientific guidance. The tasks for which the national museums are responsible are already so vast that there is little time for assistance to the willing volunteer, so that continued support from the Crafts Council is essential.

NADFAS deplores the change of policy which eliminates the support for conservation training.

Yours etc,
SHEILA CHAPMAN, Chairman,
The National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies,
32 Ebury Street, SW1.
July 11.

No economic upturn

From Professor F. H. Hahn, FBA

Sir, Suppose 364 doctors stated that there is "no basis in medical theory or supporting evidence" that a man with an infection will be cured by the administration of toad's liver. Suppose, none the less, that the man is given toad's liver and shows signs of recovery. Mr Congdon (July 14) wants us to conclude that the doctors were wrong. This is slightly unfair since Mr Congdon provides a "theory" of how toad's liver may do good to the patient.

He argues that the recovery (in the economy) which he detects is due to the buoyancy of the mortgage business, which he ascribes to lower nominal interest rates. The theory which he develops is entirely Keynesian: the recovery is coming about through increased consumer demand and by the activation of liquid assets.

He does not predict that this may again increase prices, lower the exchange rate or cause balance of

Social importance of Pill ruling

From Lord Devlin

Sir, The case of *Gillick v West Norfolk Health Authority*, on which you have just written an illuminating editorial (July 27) may well be socially the most important to come before the courts in this decade.

It is universally agreed that the upbringing of a child up to a certain age, in this case 16, must be subject to control. In the nature of things this must be either parental or state control. I think it to be the general belief that except in cases where parental control has clearly broken down, or where Parliament has clearly provided to the contrary, it is parental control.

This, although the law has not formally declared it as such, is a matter of public policy. At a time when courts of law were exceptionally timid someone arbitrarily said that the heads of public policy at common law must be taken to have been settled for ever somewhere about the turn of the century.

Lord Radcliffe, in my opinion the greatest lawyer of his generation, would not accept that. In a lecture on "The law and its compass" he described the law on public policy as meaning "that there are some things the law will not stand for" and as "expressing those inner convictions that sustain the system itself".

He wrote: "We all feel that there are relationships arising out of human institutions which deserve special protection from outside invasion or even voluntary relinquishment"; and he instanced first "marital and parental relationships".

I hope that in this case, if it goes further, or in one to come, the argument will not be restricted to speculation as to whether or not a crime may be committed or a trespass to the person. I hope also that the common law will be found still capable of giving an answer to the question of whether it is the parent or the health authority who is to decide whether or not a child under 16 is to be provided with the means of sexual promiscuity.

Yours etc,
DEVLIN,
West Wick House,
Pewsey, Wiltshire.

From Dr E. S. B. Wilson

Sir, The recent attempt to obtain an injunction on doctors prescribing

Manpower reductions

From the Director General of the Confederation of British Industry

Sir, Before it becomes folklore that the CBI is calling for 360,000 sackings in the public sector, may I be allowed to state what the CBI did say and why? This may be helpful to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Foot, and one of the candidates for the deputy leadership, Mrs Dunwoody, among others.

The CBI Council met on Wednesday, July 20, to discuss manpower reductions in the Civil Service, the local authorities and National Health Service. The CBI first published the same figures - which were in line with the Government's published estimates - in its Working Party Report on Government Expenditure in 1981.

They indicate the scale of efficiency improvements which the CBI believes to be achievable. We have shown this can be done over a four-year period without redundancies. We believe our aim can be achieved by natural wastage and only filling one vacancy in every two.

The scale of the cuts in manpower necessary to get spending down depends on how successfully the Government controls spending else-

Dadd painting

From Mr Laurence N. Mann

Sir, I read with little surprise the letter (July 18) in connection with the proposed export of the Dadd painting "Contradiction. Oberon and Titania" by the Archivist of the Bethlem Royal Hospital and others.

It would not be unreasonable to say that whenever a work of art is threatened with sale to a foreigner, and export from this country, there is a chorus of voices acclaiming the merits of the painting (which in many cases has been gathering dust for a century or two), and bewailing the denuding of the nation of these precious canvasses.

In this case, these worthy correspondents have suggested that the public raise just over half a million pounds to prevent the picture from falling into the hands of whatsoever barbarian has acquired it.

Would it be out of place to criticise this insular approach to the preservation of art treasures? The

payment problems. But then suppose the Government gave everyone a gift of newly printed money, would not demand increase as well? No, say the monetarists, because everyone seeing the higher money stock will expect a rise in prices and interest rates and so this will in fact happen, and nothing "real" will be changed.

If this is true (and it might be) it is almost entirely due to the effect monetarists and City pundits have had on people's expectations. For if people held "Keynesian expectations" Mr Congdon's multiplier analysis would apply to this case also. As incomes rose the higher money stock would be willingly held at the old interest rate on immaculate quantity equation grounds.

So, since Mr Congdon turns out to be a Keynesian in locating the causes of recession in insufficient demand, he should also be able to work out the Keynesian doctrine of "inbuilt stabilisers". The latter have always included a lower interest rate as output and demand fell. But included also are declining tax receipts and the likely contracyclical behaviour of real wages.

The 364 did not argue that Mrs Thatcher's policies would lead to a steady fall in GNP for ever - even

contraceptives to girls under 16 without parental consent appears to me to be based on a totally false assumption. Families are held together by love, not the law. Parental love must embrace respect for the individuality and independence of the child.

Children are not possessions, neither are they juvenile expressions of their parents. They learn by example not exhortation. When an adolescent girl is involved in a sexual relationship which she wishes to conceal from her mother, the family unit is already showing signs of breakdown. Trust is no longer there.

The doctor is merely trying to protect the girl from the possible harmful effects of that breakdown. In my experience confrontation between the girl and her parents, when total compliance with their views is demanded, only results in sullen resentment, deceit and worsening of the family relationships.

Parents who temper their shock and dismay with understanding are usually surprised to discover their daughters are not nearly such abandoned young hussies as they fear. Frequently with time and patience, the girls and their families come to realise that these early adolescent adventures are a rather extreme form of teenage rebellion which is left behind with growing maturity, but this happy outcome is only likely if the relationships within the family have not been broken beyond repair.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH S. B. WILSON,
11 Westbourne Gardens,
Glasgow.

From Dr F. M. Ulyatt

Sir, Your balanced leader, "Parents and the Pill" (July 27), might be taken to imply that the prescription of a contraceptive pill would reduce the risk of a young girl contracting venereal disease. This is unfortunately not the case. Unwanted pregnancies might be avoided, but the possibility of promiscuity would greatly add to the risk of infection.

Yours etc,
FRANCES MARGARET ULYATT,
8 Cambridge Road,
Battersea, SW11.
July 27.

where and the amount of growth in the economy. The target is to get overall Government spending down.

We fear that unless the share of Government spending is reduced then the business base of the economy, which has had to accept painful cutbacks, will not be able to continue carrying the overheads. We do not believe our proposals will cause unemployment. Indeed, if action is not taken to hold down the share of Government spending then higher interest rates and taxes will damage the private sector's ability to employ people and would push up unemployment.

If resources can be switched from wages to capital projects like roads, bridges and much needed sewers, the take-up in the construction industry would be rapid and beneficial to the economy as a whole.

The CBI believes there should be a wider public debate on these matters and does not think this is assisted by the whipping up of emotions, particularly since the general election is over.

Yours sincerely,
TERENCE BECKETT,
Director General,
Confederation of British Industry,
Centre Point,
103 New Oxford Street, WC1.

world is now a smaller place than at any time before; a picture in a private gallery in England is no less or more accessible to the public than that picture in New York, or Paris, or even California. Our art heritage, a combination of native talent and wise purchases from abroad, was acquired at a time when this country was able to wield a disproportionate degree of purchasing power in comparison to its population.

Now that we are an average nation, perhaps we should recognise that the open market forces in the art world should not be restrained, with the result that we are lumbered with pictures which cannot be shown to the public through lack of space, and the rest of the world is deprived of the opportunity of enjoying the fruits of the labours of such as Richard Dadd.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE MANN,
31 Braemar Avenue,
Purly Oaks,
Sunderland,
Surrey.

she (and her advisers) may find this difficult to engineer. What they said was that there were no reasons to suppose that her policies would bring about a level of activity which would make reasonably full use of the country's resources, including labour. On this Mr Congdon is silent. Not so those who have been predicting the medium-term future: they are all very pessimistic.

There is a good deal more to say. But I conclude with the observation that it is a central doctrine of the "new macro-economics" that no systematic monetary policy can have any lasting real effects on the economy. It was Friedman who was amongst the first to argue that the long-run Phillips curve is vertical. Even in the short run it is argued by the monetarists that systematic monetary policy can only be effective if some prices and wages are "sticky" but such stickiness is considered to be short-lived.

These economists are to Mrs Thatcher what Marx is to Marxian economists. She has not understood them. Mr Congdon's understanding of either side of the argument seems very insecure.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK HAHN,
16 Adams Road, Cambridge.

All British Gas and profits

From Lady Burton of Coventry

Sir, It really is very difficult for the ordinary domestic consumer to comprehend, let alone understand, British Gas has doubled its profits to £665m and I am told that that more and more customers are finding it difficult to pay their bills. Apparently the series of price rises has been so profitable to British Gas that, in addition to the £665m profit the board has paid a levy of £470m to the Government. Indeed, as stated in the article by Jonathan Davis in today's *Times* (July 27) the profits of the Gas Board "were greater than those of ICI, Beecham and Marks & Spencer combined."

Sir, that sounds excellent but what about us, the ordinary domestic consumer? Surely we merit some reduction in price. Those who are having difficulty in paying their bills, those who manage with effort and sacrifice elsewhere, to do so are going to look askance at a profit that has doubled and to which we have all had to contribute when we read (again from Jonathan Davis) "British Gas is understood, however, to be working on the basis of a price increase in October in line with the rate of inflation. This would be between 4 and 5 per cent."

Oh no! This is just not good enough. Are we to pay more and more however big the profits? To a non-financial expert, but domestic consumer, this seems to be the economics of the madhouse and I think that we should protest.

Yours faithfully,
BURTON OF COVENTRY,
House of Lords.

Jobs for doctors

From Mr R. T. J. Holl-Allen and Mrs J. Barnes

Sir, Recent reports have suggested that some 2,000 doctors are unemployed. This hospital, in common with many others, has advertised short, and longer-term non-consultant locum appointments. Virtually no applications have been forthcoming for the posts in many of the hospitals.

Is medical unemployment a myth, put forward to exert pressure on a government, or are doctors, rightly or wrongly, being selective in the type of post for which they wish to apply? Certainly, there is no shortage of good applicants for established positions, but what happens to the unsuccessful candidates?

Yours etc,
R. T. J. HOLL-ALLEN,
Consultant Surgeon,
I. BARNES, Medical Staffing Officer,
East Birmingham Hospital,
Bordesley Green East,
Birmingham.

Fine arts cutbacks

From Mr G. Grainge

Sir, I am grateful to Mr John Brine and his distinguished co-signatories for their support (July 23) for the Fine Art Department at Ravensbourne College of Art and Design. I must, however, offer some comment.

Firstly, it has been Bromley Council's practice over the years to support Government policy (whatever the government in power), in particular in financial policy. The 10 per cent reduction exercise being conducted by the national advisory body is, however, at this stage an investigation only. Secondly, Bromley Education Committee have consistently made clear their view that reductions in expenditure of the order of 10 per cent are neither necessary nor desirable in the case of colleges in Bromley.

Thirdly, Ravensbourne College of Art and Design, as a matter of deliberate policy, has, over a period of some eight years, become progressively more cost-effective and can now claim to be as cost-effective as any comparable institution in the country.

Fourthly, any response to suggested reductions in expenditure of the order suggested by the national advisory body can only, in the case of Ravensbourne College, be at the cost of course provision. It is simply not possible to make reductions of the order suggested without affecting the quality of provision of what are degree courses to an unacceptable extent.

The committee therefore had the agonising decision of indicating a preference between courses and specifically between the communications engineering course, which is unique and has an important role to play in an increasingly technological society, and fine art, which it is accepted has a particular place in colleges of art and design but is available in other colleges within the London area.

After careful consideration, detailed discussion and a thoughtful debate the committee decided that should the Secretary of State in the event require a 10 per cent reduction in expenditure at Ravensbourne College of Art and Design, then it would be prepared to meet that reduction by closing the fine art degree course. It was not a decision sought by the committee and it was not one they found easy to take. It was agonising and by no means unanimous.

Yours faithfully,
G. GRAINGE,
Director of Education,
London Borough of Bromley,
The Town Hall, Widmore Road,
Bromley, Kent.

Flagging hopes

From Mr John Penman

Sir, Could not the Union Jack at the May meet plant (report, July 27) be flown at half-mast, in mourning for sanity?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PENMAN,
Forest View,
Upper Chute,
Andover, Hampshire.

Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 721.4 up 2.4
 FT 100: 79.16 down 0.20
 FT All Share: 451.21 up 0.03
 Bargains: 19,561
 Datastream USM Leaders
 Index: 96.8 down 0.2
 New York: Dow Jones
 Average: 1,226.80 down 3.61
 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
 Index: 107.29 down 16.36
 Amsterdam: 149.7 down 1.1
 Sydney: AO Index: 675.9
 down 2.5
 Frankfurt: Commerzbank
 Index: 976.90 down 1.8
 Brussels: General Index
 133.50 up 0.79
 Paris: CAC Index: 130 down 0.9
 Zurich: S&A General: 291.9
 no change

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
 Sterling \$1.5250 down 30pts
 Index 85.3 unchanged
 DM 4.0150 up 0.0075
 FF 12.0450 up 0.0125
 Yen 367.50 down 0.25
 Dollar
 Index 126.9 up 0.1
 DM 2.6285
 NEW YORK LATEST
 Sterling \$1.5270
 ECU 20.56847
 SDR 20.692771

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
 Base rates 9 1/2%
 Finance houses base rate 10 1/2%
 Discount market loans week
 fixed 9 1/2-9 3/4 month interbank
 9 1/2 to 9 3/4%
 Euro-currency rates:
 3 month dollar 10-10 1/2%
 3 month DM 5 1/2 to 5 3/4%
 3 month FF 13 1/4-13 1/2%
 US rates:
 Bank prime rate 10.50
 Fed funds 8 1/2%
 Treasury long bond 8 1/2-8 3/4%
 ECU Fixed Rate Sterling
 Export Finance Scheme IV
 Average reference rate for
 interest period June 2 to July 5,
 1983 inclusive: 9.878 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am
 \$426.50
 \$426.35 (\$278.75) down
 \$1.50
 New York latest \$426.50
 Kruggerand (new): \$437.50
 -438 (\$286.50-287.50)
 Sovereigns (new): \$100-101
 (\$65.50-66.25)
 Excludes VAT.

TODAY

Interbank: Lex Service, Lloyds
 Blank.
 Finals: Gray Elec, Dyson J. and J.,
 Forinister, Howard and Wyndham,
 Neepsend, Nott, Sommerville
 Wm., Stewart Zigomala, Wagon
 Inds, Walsgrave.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Barbours Tea Holdings, Finley
 House, West Nile Street, Glasgow
 (8.30); BPB Industries, Portman
 Inter-Continental Hotel, W1 (noon);
 Brown & Jackson, Great Hotel,
 Preston, Lancs (noon); Dornier
 Surgical, Imperial Hotel, WC1
 (8.00); Electronic Rentals
 Group, Howard Hotel, Temple
 Place, Strand, WC2 (noon); James
 Finlay, West Nile Street, Glasgow
 (noon); Garland-Libby Indus-
 tries, Great Northern Hotel, W1
 (11.30); Plessey Company,
 Millbank Tower, SW1 (noon);
 Portsmouth & Sunderland
 Newspapers, News Centre,
 Hilsa, Portsmouth (12.30); Tesco
 Stores (Midlands), Savoy Hotel,
 WC2 (noon); Town & City
 Properties, Institute of Directors,
 SW1 (11.00); Wedgwood, Wedg-
 wood House, 43 Wignor Street,
 W1 (noon); Jones Woodhead &
 Sons, Parkway Hotel, Otley Road,
 Leeds (2.30).

NOTEBOOK

The Stock Exchange's role as
 capital-raiser for industry is boom-
 ing. Unit now the cash flow of city
 institutions has been more than
 sufficient to cope without putting
 downward pressure on share
 prices, but government sales could
 prove the last straw unless the
 delights of overseas investment
 wane.
 A tea estate company turned
 supermarket operator is giving the
 big chase a run for their money in
 the West Country. Page 17
 ● America's Securities and
 Exchange Commission voted to
 defer indefinitely a decision on
 whether to adopt a contro-
 versial rule requiring brokers
 and specialists to publicize their
 customers' orders in certain
 stocks before trading from their
 own accounts with the cus-
 tomer.
 ● Fires in Britain last month
 cost an estimated £194.3m, the
 British Insurance Association
 announced yesterday.
 ● The unusually high figure was
 due to an uninsured fire at an
 Army ordnance depot in the
 Midlands which cost an esti-
 mated £165m.

Shares up 18p as dividend is raised

ICI doubles profits to £298m
after chemical sales rise 15%

By Michael Frost

Currency gains and a strong
 increase in chemical sales
 helped Imperial Chemical
 Industries, Britain's biggest manu-
 facturing company, to double
 interim pretax profits to £298m,
 more than it made in the whole
 of 1982.

The stock market was grati-
 fied by a 1p rise in the net
 dividend to 10p, so the shares
 rose by 18p to close at 556p.
 While total sales of £4,099m
 were 12 per cent higher than in
 the first six months of last year,
 group chemical sales of
 £3,705m went up by 15 per
 cent.

Oil, by contrast, brought in
 £394m of sales, compared with
 £428m, largely because of lower
 prices.
 Mr Alan Clements, the
 company's finance director,
 said that the overall improve-
 ment in chemicals owed much
 to higher sales volumes,
 especially in North America,
 and to ICI's long programme of
 reorganization and switching
 into higher margin products.

Costs rose by £50m to about
 £1,050m.

The workforce is still being
 reduced in Britain, and is now
 below the 67,000 average for
 1982.

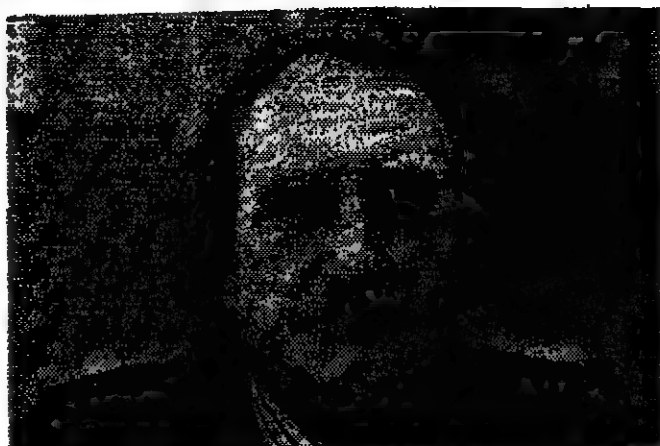
Volume accounted for about
 8 per cent of the higher
 chemical sales, the remaining 7
 per cent coming from currency
 gains.

But Mr Clements said that
 most of this gain was against the
 dollar and the Deutsche mark in
 the first quarter, when ICI's
 pretax profits also doubled to
 £128m.

Since then, sterling has de-
 preciated against the Deutsche
 mark.

Profits, however, followed
 fairly closely the trend identi-
 fied in the opening three
 months of 1983, except that the
 total pretax profit of £170m
 indicated a faster rate of
 increase than some City ana-
 lysts had expected.

Overall, chemical sales for
 the second quarter were
 £1,904m, to which agricultural



Harvey-Jones: turning ICI into a more international business

chemicals and pharmaceuticals
 were the biggest contributors.
 Crop protection products
 benefited from the spring
 planting season and tend to be
 lower in the third quarter.
 Nolvadex, a palliative for
 some kinds of breast cancer,
 and Mylanta, an antacid, are
 selling well in the United States.

Fibres and organic chemicals,
 previously a troubled area,
 more or less broke even.

But petrochemicals and plas-
 tics, suffering from severe
 worldwide overcapacity and
 consequent low prices, lost
 about £10m in the quarter,
 about the same as in the
 preceding three months.

Trading profits from oil,
 however, fell during the quarter
 by £1m to £23m, after ICI paid
 petroleum revenue tax of £37m.

The full tax charge for the six
 months, excluding oil taxes
 which are taken directly into
 profits above the line, was
 £102m, more than twice the
 amount levied in the first half
 of 1982.

One important aspect re-
 vealed by the latest figures is
 how under the chairmanship of
 Mr John Harvey-Jones, ICI is
 becoming more international.

In the first quarter, no less
 than £2,628m of all chemical
 sales were overseas.
 Chemical exports from Brit-
 ain came to £883m. The
 comparable 1982 statistics were
 £2,216m and £748m.

North America, despite the
 Canadian recession, has proved
 the most buoyant market of
 late, although European sales
 have also been picking up,
 especially in Germany, Scandi-
 navia and Holland.

Australia remains a relatively
 dull market.

Institutions rush for
Mercantile shares

By Our Banking Correspondent

City institutions yesterday
 snapped up £51m worth of
 shares in Mercantile House, the
 fast-growing money broker and
 financial services group, which
 reported a sharp rise in profits
 this week.

S G Warburg placed 7 million
 shares in the market at 72 1/2p
 each on behalf of Globe
 Investment Trust, Electra In-
 vestment Trust and Odyssey
 Partners. They acquired their
 shares in Mercantile last year
 when it took over the New York
 brokerage house Oppenheimer
 and have made a big profit on
 their investment.

Globe has sold 3.55 million
 of the 5 million shares it
 acquired a year ago at 54 each
 when it helped to finance the
 Oppenheimer takeover. Includ-
 ing the £20m of 7.7 per cent
 convertible redeemable pre-
 ference shares which it provided at
 the same time, it still has an
 effective 15.6 per cent stake in
 Mercantile.

Odyssey, formerly the private
 investment partnership which
 owned 80 per cent of Oppen-
 heimer, and Electra both took
 Mercantile shares in part
 exchange for their stakes in

Oppenheimer at the time of the
 Mercantile takeover.

Between them they have sold
 3.45 million shares, but still
 own below 5 per cent of them.

Globe and Electra said
 yesterday they would not sell
 any more shares in Mercantile
 for at least two years except in
 exceptional circumstances.

Cazenove and Laing &
 Cruickshank were brokers to
 yesterday's placing which ap-
 pears to have gone well.

The placing was at a discount
 of about 10p to the overnight
 price of 81 1/2p and Mercantile's
 shares slipped at one point to
 about 79p, before closing at
 81 1/2p.

This week Mercantile re-
 ported a rise in pretax profits
 from £14.4m pretax to £44.7m
 for the year to April 30 and
 declared a 15p net final
 dividend.

Mr Michael Stoddart, a
 Globe director and a director of
 Mercantile said the investment
 trusts were reducing their stakes
 because they represented a big
 slice of their assets, but Globe
 and Electra had no other big
 deals in the offing.

New power
chief seeks
private cashBy Jonathan Davis,
Energy Correspondent

The new chairman of the
 Electricity Council has been
 given a mandate by the
 Government to investigate
 ways of introducing more
 private capital into the elec-
 tricity supply industry.

Mr Philip Jones, a former
 deputy secretary at the Depart-
 ment of Energy, took over as
 chairman in April. The council
 is the top tier of the electricity
 industry, with a supervisory
 role over the 12 area boards and
 the Central Electricity Generat-
 ing Board.

The second of the ten
 personal objectives he has
 agreed with Mr Peter Walker,
 the Energy Secretary, requires
 him specifically to "increase the
 scope for competition in elec-
 tricity supply", echoing a
 similar objective agreed with Sir
 Walter Marshall, the CEBG
 chairman.

Mr Jones has been told to
 review prospects for the in-
 jection of private risk capital into
 areas of the industry's activities
 and make recommendations
 after consulting local area
 boards.

He is also being asked to take
 a special interest in ensuring
 that private generators of
 electricity are able to take full
 advantage of this year's Energy
 Act, which lifted the previous
 statutory ban on companies
 generating electricity as a main
 business.

This commitment underlines
 the Conservative Party's elec-
 tion promise to introduce
 further privatization into the
 electricity industry.

Only one or two companies
 have shown interest in taking
 advantage of the Energy Act's
 provisions for private genera-
 tion, but Department of
 Energy officials point out that
 the Act is only a few weeks old.
 ● The National Coal Board is
 considering selling its 60 per
 cent interest in J. H. Sankey, its
 loss-making solid fuel and
 builders' merchants business.

Regan bid to settle
IMF quota row

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Urgent attempts were being
 made in Washington yesterday
 to find a compromise formula
 to ensure approval for the
 United States contribution to the
 International Monetary
 Fund.

Mr Donald Regan, the
 Treasury Secretary, was locked
 in meetings aimed at finding a
 compromise which would meet
 approval from the House of
 Representatives.

Washington sources said this
 was likely to include further
 restrictions on international
 lending by American commer-
 cial banks as a way of appeasing
 hawkish elements in the House.

The US is due to make an
 \$8.4bn contribution to the
 IMF's next quota rise. But
 despite extensive lobbying by
 the Reagan Administration, the
 proposal has run into tough
 opposition in Congress.

Earlier yesterday Mr Thomas
 "Tip" O'Neill, the Speaker of
 the House, said any further
 action on the \$8.4bn contribu-
 tion must wait until Sep-
 tember, after the summer
 recess, because of lack of
 support.

However, the US Treasury

later issued a statement saying
 that a compromise formula was
 being worked out and Washing-
 ton sources said a vote on the
 US contribution could be
 imminent.

Mr Bernard S. Gorman, the
 House Banking Committee
 chairman, yesterday proposed
 changes to legislation authoriz-
 ing the US contribution.

The six changes included
 withholding the \$2.61bn US
 contribution to the General
 Agreement to Borrow (GAB)
 and allowing release of the
 funds only if the Treasury
 Secretary certified they were
 needed to "forestall an impair-
 ment of the international
 monetary system."

Other changes included limit-
 ing automatic rescheduling fees
 charged by US banks; limiting
 further lending by US banks
 which had lent excessively to
 any one country, defined as
 more than the bank's primary
 capital.

The House Banking Com-
 mittee also proposed requiring
 the US director of the IMF to
 oppose IMF loans which would
 be mainly used to repay
 commercial banks which had
 lent imprudently.

Rank group
to be run
by outsider

By Graham Searjeant

The long-running attempts by
 City institutions to reform the
 Rank Organisation took a
 further step forward yesterday
 when the group announced the
 appointment of Mr Michael
 Clifford to the new post of group
 chief executive.

Mr Clifford, aged 47, has been
 group finance director of Cad-
 bury Schweppes since 1978 and
 spent 15 years on computer
 management.

An announcement had been
 expected since March, when Mr
 Russell Evans, Rank's chair-
 man, bowed to pressure from a
 committee of institutional
 shareholders and announced
 that the board was taking steps
 to find an outsider to run the
 group, which has long disap-
 pointed City expectations.

Mr Evans said at that time that
 the company was searching for an
 "executive chairman" who
 would gradually take over Mr
 Evans' executive role and that
 Mr Harry Smith would retire as
 deputy chairman on the new
 appointment.

A company spokesman said
 yesterday that the board subse-
 quently decided that the new
 title would reflect more accu-
 rately the newcomer's role.

Group pretax profits fell
 continuously from £112m in
 1978 to £62m last year.

Reshuffle and rights issue at Celltech

By Our Financial Staff

Celltech, the small company
 which has pushed Britain to the
 front of the biotechnology race,
 has seen a big shuffle among its
 shareholders and is raising more
 than £6m by a rights issue.

The 40 per cent stake held by
 British Technology Group is
 being reduced to just over 28
 per cent and its other four big
 shareholders are being joined by
 four newcomers.

The first four, the Prudential,
 Midland Bank, British &
 Commonwealth and Biotechno-

logy Investments, have all
 increased their shareholdings.
 BTG's shareholding will be
 diluted down to 30.7 per cent
 anyway because it is not taking
 up its rights. But both Celltech
 and BTG were keen that their
 stake should be reduced further
 and 2.6 per cent of its shares
 have been sold to Royal Life
 Assurance at £1.75p each, the
 same as the rights price.

The deal looks good for BTG
 which paid only the final 39p
 due on each of the £1 shares it
 owned last Tuesday. It will raise
 £700,000 on the sale, a profit of
 £300,000 on its original invest-
 ment.

The final payments, in-
 creased Celltech's cash resources
 by £4.5m.

Together with the rights cash,
 Celltech will have cash in the
 bank totalling £12.5m. This will
 be used to develop its health
 care packages, which are to be
 licensed for production by drug
 companies, and to expand its
 two product divisions.

Investors await new Waddington bid

Shares in John Waddington,
 the Monopoly game maker,
 soared 10p to a new record 26 1/2p
 yesterday as the stock market
 geared itself for another twist in
 the takeover battle.

Favourite to come forward
 with a new offer is British
 Printing & Communications
 Corporation, controlled by Mr
 Robert Maxwell. He has already
 made one bid valuing Waddington
 at £13m, but this was
 topped by Norton Opax, which
 printed lottery tickets. Bidding
 stands at £15m.

BPCC needed to raise its offer
 to stay in the game. Both offers
 were cleared of any reference to
 the Monopolies and Mergers
 Commission yesterday.

Norton Opax results for the
 year to the end of last March
 show pretax profits rising from
 £139,000 to £1m on a turnover
 up from £6.6m to £10m. The
 group is paying a 2.5p dividend
 against 2p last time.

● Guernsey's parliament yester-
 day approved proposals to
 allow offshore funds to be run
 entirely from the island without
 becoming liable to local income
 tax. At present, Guernsey-based
 funds have to show they are non-
 residents and conduct some of
 their activities outside the
 island to avoid local taxation.

● Xerox in New York reported
 a second quarter net profit of
 \$153m on revenues of £216
 billion (£1.4bn), against net of

£161m on revenue of £211
 billion for the same period last
 year.

● Visits abroad by Britons in
 May jumped 11 per cent to 1.68
 million on annual comparison
 while incoming visitors from
 overseas were at about last
 year's level of one million,
 according to the Department of
 Trade and Industry.

● The EEC Commission will
 allow the Belgian Government
 to grant extra aids totalling BFR
 7.5 bn (£952m) to keep steel
 maker Cockerill-Sambre afloat
 in exchange for an undertaking
 to cut production capacity at
 Cockerill by a further 1.4
 million tonnes.

Lay members will open up SE Council

Secrets of the City's 'government'

By Jonathan Clare

It is ironic that an act of
 Government timing has turned
 the spotlight on one of the least
 known, but most powerful
 financial bodies in the country.

Lay members will soon be
 appointed to the Council of the
 Stock Exchange (although the
 number and method of selec-
 tion are yet to be decided), a
 move which was first put
 forward in the 1980 Wilson
 report.

The council body, was set up
 10 years ago in the reorganiza-
 tion of the Stock Exchange
 system in 1973, not only
 regulates the rules by which
 members abide, but also fights
 for the exchange's own interests
 and is responsible for the
 market itself.

The council has 46 members
 who are elected plus one ex
 officio member, the Govern-
 ment Broker. The regions,
 which until 1973 had their own
 exchanges, elect 11 of the
 members.



Advisor and chairman Goodison (left) and Allhaus

The Government Broker, at
 present Mr Nigel Allhaus does
 not vote on issues but he does
 speak and advise. Appointment
 to the post of Government
 Broker automatically brings two
 other appointments to be
 senior partner of the stock-



broking firm of Mullens and
 appointment to the council.
 One third of the council is
 re-elected each year. The council
 itself votes to appoint the
 chairman and deputy chairman
 every year. The present chair-
 man is Sir Nicholas Goodison,

of the stockbroking firm Quiller
 Goodison.
 Anyone who is a member
 of the Stock Exchange can stand
 for the council election, but
 successful candidates tend to be
 senior members who have made
 a name for themselves.

Theoretically, every firm in
 the exchange should have a
 partner as a member at some
 time. In practice there is a band
 of firms which have good track
 records of getting their partners
 onto the council. This is
 because council business takes
 up about a quarter of a
 member's working life so the
 other partners in the firm are
 effectively subsidizing him.

All the council's members are
 working members of the Ex-
 change and meet every two
 weeks although satellite com-
 mittees meet every week - with
 some of the committee mem-
 bers meeting every day.
 These committees are re-
 sponsible for membership and
 discipline.

City Editor's Comment

In the shadows with
black economy

By its very nature the
 black or hidden economy is
 almost impossible to mea-
 sure. We all have tales to
 tell of people we know or
 suspect are 'on the fiddle' -
 but how significant this is
 in national economic terms
 is hard to judge.

The latest attempt to
 measure the black economy
 comes up with some start-
 ling results. Mr Kent
 Matthews of Liverpool
 University, writing in the
 right-wing *Journal of Econo-
 mic Affairs*, suggests that
 it accounts for some 16 per
 cent of national income and
 that, of the 3.1 million
 people officially counted as
 out of work, nearly 1.3
 million are in fact busily
 occupied.

Much of the apparent
 growth in unemployment
 since the mid-1970s
 "represents a monumental
 statistical illusion", Mr
 Matthews claims. He puts
 the true level of unemploy-
 ment this year at about 1.8
 million.

These estimates do not
 square at all with those of
 the Inland Revenue, which
 puts the size of the black
 economy at 6 to 8 per cent
 of national income, almost
 entirely accounted for by
 the understatement of in-
 come by the self-employed
 and by moonlighting by
 people with full-time jobs.

And they lack an in-
 herent plausibility. Mr
 Matthews' calculations
 suggest that the black
 economy is now worth
 roughly £40,000m a year -
 which implies that every
 household in the land is
 buying black services to the
 value of £1,500.

Most of this hidden
 income should be picked up
 in official spending figures -
 which tend to be more
 accurate than those on
 incomes. But as though
 there is a gap between
 spending and incomes it is
 nothing like the sixth of
 total income Mr Matthews
 proposes.

Nor have repeated drives
 by social security sleuths
 succeeded in uncovering
 more than a minuscule

number of people fraudu-
 lently claiming benefits.

TARGET HOLDINGS LIMITED

Half-Year Results

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS HALF-YEAR TO 30 JUNE

	1983 £m	1982 £m	% Increase
SALES			
New Annual Premiums	8.4	4.5	+87
- pensions	3.4	2.0	
- life assurance	5.0	2.5	
New Single Premiums	13.7	3.6	+280
- pensions	3.9	0.8	
- life assurance	9.8	2.8	
Unit Trust Sales	32.8	8.1	+305
MANAGEMENT EXPENSES excluding commissions	5.9	4.6	+28
GROUP FUNDS UNDER MANAGEMENT	348.0	247.0	+41

Significant Progress

During the first six months of 1983 Target Holdings Limited made significant progress across the broad spread of its activities. The financial highlights above give details of the company's results, and in particular demonstrate Target's determination to maintain strict control of management expenses during a period of rapid expansion. These results are the first fruits of the extensive re-organisation of the company's management structure and marketing strategy.

TARGET HOLDINGS LIMITED

Target Holdings Limited integrates the activities of Target Life Assurance Company Limited and Target Trust Managers Limited.

Target Life offers a complete range of competitive and tax efficient investment, pensions and life assurance products including individual pension arrangements linked to the UK's top performing Managed Pension Fund.

Target Trust Managers offers a wide choice of general and specialist unit trusts for both income and growth - offering funds invested in specific markets and industry sectors. The range of funds has recently been increased by the addition of the Target Managed Currency Fund Limited.

The investment management of Target funds is undertaken by J. Rothschild Investment Management Limited.

TARGET HOLDINGS LIMITED

ultimate holding company RIT and Northern plc.

Target Holdings Limited, 79 Breems Buildings, London, EC4A 1EU. Telephone: 01-831 8244

Mobil profit up 40% in second quarter

New York (MYT) - The Mobil Corporation increased its earnings in the second quarter by 40.1 per cent, to \$402m (£264m) compared to \$287m in the same period last year.

The gain by the nation's second-largest energy concern reflected lower crude oil prices and better profits on petrol, factors that have helped several oil companies.

The other energy concerns also reported increased profits, with Tenneco showing a gain of under 1 per cent and Phillips Petroleum reporting a 15.8 per cent increase.

Better profits of refined petroleum products is one of the reasons for the improved earnings analysts say. Since March, when the organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed a 15 per cent reduction in its crude oil prices, the price of petrol and some other refined products has risen. Thus, the companies' margins have widened sharply.

Earlier, the Exxon Corporation, the world's largest energy

company, reported a 27.2 per cent gain in the second quarter and Standard Oil of California, posted a 40 per cent increase.

Mr Dodge of Dowdell, Lufkin & Jensen, said that Mobil's refining and marketing had moved quickly from an unprofitable business to a healthy margin. He estimated that in March, refineries were losing 5 cents to 4 cents a gallon on petrol, but were now making 6 cents a gallon in pretax earnings.

Mobil's chairman, Mr Ramo-Warner Jr, attributed the increased earnings to the stabilization of crude oil prices and improvements in marketing and refining operation worldwide.

Mobil is a partner in the Arabian American Oil, which produces most of Saudi Arabia's oil, and thus benefited directly from Opec price cut.

Its earnings from domestic exploration and production declined 9 per cent, to \$222m, largely because of falling demand for natural gas.

Sales rise maintained at Habitat

By Our Financial Staff

Sir Terence Conran, chairman of Habitat Mothercare, told the annual meeting yesterday that group sales were still showing about the same percentage increase over last year as indicated in his statement in the report and accounts.

Trade in Britain is maintaining a good momentum and in America, both Mothercare and Conran's are making encouraging progress. Problems in France, however, continue to depress the retail market, the chairman said.

Last week, the company presented a new look for Mothercare. The changes, to be implemented this autumn, are expected to give an added impetus to sales.

Overseas, Conran's has two more outlets in the pipeline. The new teenager clothing project now will be launched this autumn with five pilot shops.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

David S. Smith (Holdings) Half-year/Year to April 30, 1983 Pretax profit £121,000 (£942,000) Stated earnings 1.8p (8p) Turnover £4,816,000 (£6,785,000) Net final dividend 1p Dividend payable October 3	A. L. Jacobs Half-year to June 30, 1983 Pretax profit £737,000 (£505,000) Turnover £497,000 (£723,000) Net interim dividend 1p (0.7p) Dividend payable October 20
P. H. Industriale 16 months to April 30, 1983 Pretax profit £306,478 (£318,121) Stated earnings 12.2p (11.2p) Turnover £1,718m (£1,583m) Net final dividend 5.5p	River and Mercantile Trust Half year to June 30, 1983 Pretax profit Stated earnings 2.03p (1.89p adjusted) Turnover Net interim dividend 1.4p (1.325p)
T. Jarvis and Sons Year to March 31, 1983 Stated earnings (49,853p) Turnover £20,432m (£23,834m) Net final dividend 8.6p	Arlington Motor Holdings Year to March 31, 1983 Pretax profit £1,082,000 (£30,000 loss) Stated earnings 21.3p (4.6p loss) Turnover (£55,535,000) Net final dividend 4p
Energy Finance and General Trust Year to March 31, 1983 Pretax profit £363,000 (£506,000) Stated earnings 1.86p (5.45p) Turnover Net final dividend 0.71p (same) Share price yield Dividend payable	Brassey Year to April 30, 1983 Pretax loss £388,753 (£713,027) Stated loss 4.81p (12.89p) Turnover £16,324m (£23,825m) Net final dividend none
Cardinal Investment Half-year to June 30, 1983 Pretax profit £569,000 (£556,000) Stated earnings 1.87p (1.83p) Net interim dividend 1.3p (same) Dividend payable October 3	Multon Brothers Year to April 30, 1983 Pretax profit £815,000 (£432,000) Stated earnings 4.51p (2.97p) Turnover £11,883,000 Net final dividend 1.5p

Sun powers shares

New York (NYT) - Higher demand for air conditioning has boosted electric utility stocks after a mild winter depressed earnings in the final quarter of last year and the first quarter of this year.

Hotter than normal weather, especially in northern tier states will help earnings to electric utilities in the present quarter, said Mr John Jay Jones of Oppenheimer & Company.

Other analysts have said that recent price improvements in interest rate-sensitive groups like utilities, banks and savings and loan stocks could also mean that the rates will not go much higher.

Indeed, utility issues in the past have sometimes given the go-ahead for the rest of the stock market.

The utility average closed on Tuesday at 132.90, its highest level since it reached 133.02 on March 5, 1969. On Wednesday the utility average finished at 131.98, down 0.98.

But electric utilities cannot claim full credit for this performance. The average consists of 11 electric utilities and four natural gas utilities.

In the latter category, shares of consolidated Natural Gas, Columbia Gas System and Panhandle Eastern Corporation. Traded this week at, or close to, their 52-week highs.

TRADE DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL SERVICES N.V. CURAÇAO (N.A.)

US\$ 40,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes due 1986

In accordance with Provision 5(a) of the Listing Agreement signed by the Company in August 1979, notice is hereby given to Noteholders and Couponholders that the Audited Accounts 1982 of the Company and the Annual Report of its Parent Company, Trade Development Bank Holding S.A., are available for inspection at the offices of the Principal Paying Agent, Citibank, N.A., 111 Wall Street, New York, and of the six Paying Agents.

Amount of the Notes at present outstanding: US\$ 35,000,000.

July 12, 1983

By: Trade Development Financial Services N.V.

PLYSU PLC

Years ended 31st March	1983	1982
Turnover	£20,057,000	£16,974,000
Profits before tax	£2,652,000	£2,057,000
Earnings per share	10.5p	9.8p
Dividends per share	2.5p	2.09p

Capitalisation issue of 1 for 10 again this year and it is planned to maintain dividend on the increased capital.

For a copy of the report and accounts post the coupon below:

To: The Secretary, Plys PLC, 120 Station Road, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK17 8SE.

Please send me a copy of the 1983 Annual Report

Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
T _____

U.S. \$20,000,000

IBJ

The Industrial Bank of Japan, Limited
London

Floating Rate London-Dollar Negotiable
Certificates of Deposit due 30th July, 1986

In accordance with the provisions of the Certificates, notice is hereby given that for the six month Interest Period from 29th July, 1983 to 30th January, 1984 the Certificates will carry an Interest Rate of 10% per annum. The relevant Interest Payment Date will be 30th January, 1984.

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited
Agent Bank

The Nottingham Manufacturing Company PLC

INTERIM REPORT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 1983

Group results (unaudited) for the six months ended 30th June 1983 are as follows:

	6 months 1983	6 months 1982	Year 1982
Sales	£90,488,000	£85,393,000	£214,372,000
Profit on Trading	£3,895,000	£3,609,000	£15,618,000
Investment Income	2,958,000	2,560,000	5,675,000
Profit before Taxation	£6,853,000	£6,169,000	£21,293,000
Profit after Taxation	£4,797,000	£4,318,000	£15,887,000
Earnings per Share	6.01p	5.53p	20.18p

Note: Taxation has been charged in respect of the first half of 1983 at the estimated rate chargeable for the year.

The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend of 1.35p per share to be paid on 1st December 1983 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 7th November 1983 (1982 - 1.2p per share).

28th July 1983

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange.

AARONITE

AARONITE GROUP PLC
(Registered in England under the Companies Act 1948 to 1981)
No. 1734390

Placing

by

Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited
of 1,300,000 Ordinary shares of 25p each at 115p per share

Share capital

Authorised

£1,750,000

in Ordinary Shares of 25p each

Issued and to be issued fully paid
£1,312,500

Aaronite Group PLC and its subsidiaries are specialist contractors and suppliers of the application services, materials and technology for passive fire protection and insulation to the offshore oil and gas industry and land based petro-chemical plants and to the building and construction industry; the expertise gained therefrom is being extended by the Group to nuclear power installations and to the liquefied petroleum gas industry.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the grant of permission to deal in the Ordinary shares of Aaronite Group PLC in the Unlisted Securities Market. It is emphasised that no application has been made for these securities to be admitted to listing.

Ordinary shares have been offered to and are available through The Stock Exchange. It is anticipated that dealings will commence on Wednesday, 3rd August, 1983.

Particulars relating to the Group are available in the Extel Statistical Services and copies of the Placing Memorandum may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 12th August, 1983 from:

Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited
21 Moorfields,
London, EC2P 2HT.

Rowe & Pimman
City-Care House,
39-45 Finsbury Square,
London, EC2A 1JA.

29th July, 1983

Bowring

Results for the six months
ended 30th June, 1983
(Unaudited)

	£ million	1982
Operating Revenue	51.9	45.0
Operating Expenses	(33.2)	(30.7)
Operating Profit	18.7	14.3
Equity in Operating Profit of Associates and Unconsolidated Subsidiaries	5.4	5.1
Other Income/(Expense)	0.2	(0.2)
Profit before tax	24.3	19.2
Provision for tax	(13.2)	(10.3)
Profit after tax	11.1	8.9

- ☐ Operating Revenue is up by 15% over 1982, in part due to the strength of overseas currencies against sterling.
- ☐ Operating Profit has increased by 31%.
- ☐ Profit before tax has risen by 27%.

The above figures have been adjusted to comply with generally accepted accounting practices in the United States and exclude interest income and expense and other items which arise as a consequence of the merger and which are not relevant to operating performance.

Copies of the full announcement may be obtained from the Secretary, C.T. Bowring & Co. Ltd., The Bowring Building, Tower Place, London EC3P 3BP.

A Member of
Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

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INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK ● edited by Michael Prest

Fund-raising capacity nears crisis

New capital issues are strictly a secondary line for the stock market. Its primary capital-raising service to industry is to put a value on companies' retained earnings and thereby legitimize the ploughing back of profits.

Having said that, it is a sign of great resilience in the market that the share indices managed healthy rises on Wednesday and has four second thoughts yesterday, despite the announcement of a £155m rights issue from Midland Bank.

Remember, that came in the same week that Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, revealed that he was going to dump another chunk, up to £500m, of British Petroleum stock on the market in the next few months.

The present buoyancy is one thing. But given the enormous privatization programme starting next year, there will at some time be a real strain on the market's capacity to fund new equity issues.

Rights issues posed no threat to share prices last year or the first quarter of this year, when in any case, the biggest investing institutions were hardly extending their cash flow in long-term investments.

The message from those figures was that there is still plenty of money around to invest. But the position has already changed substantially since March. In the second quarter, according to Stock Exchange figures, rights issues topped £950m, with almost £500m booked last month.

Again, that posed little

INSTITUTIONS' CASH FLOW QUARTERLY £m					
	1982 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1983 1st
Inflow to pension funds and life assurance	3,771	2,753	3,384	3,222	3,791
Investment:					
Gilt-edged	1,075	947	1,089	699	882
UK Ordinary shares	678	986	776	803	650
Overseas shares	641	500	643	811	844
Property	415	427	457	410	345
Total major long-term investments	2,810	2,240	2,915	2,724	2,701
UK rights issues	170	339	67	326	429

Source: Central Statistical Office, Stock Exchange statistics department.

problem because, on the evidence of government funding problems, the institutions were snubbing a new gilt-edged investment. But the mini-funding crisis since the election, its recent part resolution and Mr Lawson's determination to break that particular logjam, all point to a much tighter position in future, especially if the relative paucity of the building societies continues.

After a relatively slack period last year, when the inflow into pension funds actually dipped with the weight of redundancies, stockbrokers Grieve Grant expect institutional cash flow to rise by 9 per cent this year and 8.5 per cent next year. That would provide more than £1bn extra each year.

Nevertheless, the privatization programme, starting in earnest with British Telecom, will have a big impact on share markets. But perhaps the most

intriguing question is what will happen to investment in shares abroad, for some time the severest competitor to equity investment at home. That is chiefly a function of currencies. The dollar's pre-eminence must end sometime, but when?

It could linger until US election uncertainty takes hold early next year but it might be too late for London equities.

Classified advertising figures suggest a 3 per cent pick up for

the provincials this year and perhaps 5 per cent in 1984.

Companies such as East Midland Allied Press have diversified into magazines but others like United-Newsprint have suffered. However, United has compensated by aiming for aggressive growth elsewhere — such as newsprint services in the US. Whatever the Fleet Street picture, other newspapers have met their challenge head-on.

Flat first quarter figures from Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers disguise something of a revival.

Cover prices have risen faster than inflation and last month Portsmouth said it would hold the cover price of evening papers at 12p at least until the end of this calendar year.

Experience in the country shows that property advertising, despite estate agents' own free sheets, and motor advertising, have picked up sharply.

Singlo Group

Singlo Group Year to 24.83 (53 weeks) Pretax profit £1.5m (£1.17m) Stated earnings 4.41p (£3.54p) Turnover £51.7m (£40.7m) Net dividend 1.45p (1.25p) Share price 59p, up 2p Yield 3.9% Dividend payable 3.10.83 There is a one for 10 scrip issue

Singlo Group has carved out an interesting niche in the South-west of England's retail market against tough competition from operators such as Tesco and Asda.

Prices are similar to those at Kwik Save which offers about 1,000 lines. The difference is that Singlo has a minimum of 6,000 supermarket offers on its shelves. Prices are probably 8 per cent to 12 per cent cheaper than at competing conventional supermarkets — and probably a fifth lower than those at the conventional village shop.

The stores trade under the Norman's banner and were formed as a result of a takeover in 1979 after rationalization of the estates. There are still plantations in Malawi which turned in profits of £257,000 against £83,000 after a record crop and auction prices up by 10p.

Profits should continue to grow this year and Singlo could turn in £1.75m. Capital expenditure should be down on last year's £1.5m as the company consolidates last year's growth.

Evode seeks £3.9m cash for expansion

By Susan Brown

Evode, the adhesives and insulation products group, is following better-than-expected interim profits with a £3.9m rights issue of £1 nominal for every four shares held of 8 per cent convertible loan stock.

At the same time Equity Capital for Industry is subscribing at par for £500,000 of new 8 per cent cumulative redeemable preference shares.

The new capital is intended to expand the existing business and make further acquisitions. Purchases over the past 18 months have cost the company £3.6m net and capital expenditure is continuing at a substantial level.

First half profits rose 45 per cent to £865,000 on a 12.7 per cent rise in turnover to £22.9m. The figures in the first half of last year were hit by the costs of acquiring and integrating the new businesses, which this time made their full contribution.

Except for the Irish operations, business was buoyant across the board because of the upturn in the building cycle and the improvement in consumer spending. With the second half making seasonally higher contributions, the full year's result could reach £2.3m pretax.

Members of the family of the chairman, Mr A. H. Simon, who hold 42 per cent of the equity are not taking up their rights to £1.67m of the new stock and ECI has said that it will subscribe for £550,000 of the stock in addition to their preference shares.

The stock will be converted at a rate of 97 ordinary shares per £100 nominal in April between 1987 and 2001.

The interim dividend has been boosted by 20 per cent to 0.7116 pence per share.

The shares closed at 101p yesterday, unchanged on the day.

Nottingham profits rise 11%

By Our Financial Staff

Nottingham Manufacturing, the prominent Marks and Spencer supplier, showed a solid rate of growth during the first half of calendar 1983 with pretax profits 11.1 per cent higher at £6.85m on turnover 6 per cent better at £90.49m.

The interim has been raised to 1.35p per share from 1.2p.

Once again, the company's hefty cash holdings added the spice with investment income jumping 15.5 per cent to £2.96m. Trading profits benefited from the slightly easier pricing environment as well as the continued powering forward of its key customer. Margins correspondingly rose slightly enabling growth of 7.9 per cent at the trading level.

The market had hoped for better things, however, and the shares closed down 3p yesterday at 216p.

WILLIAM WHITTINGHAM (HOLDINGS) PLC

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. If you are in doubt about this offer you should consult your stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor or other professional adviser immediately.

Background: William Whittingham (Holdings) PLC ("the Company") announced on the 28th July 1983 that it has received an offer from the Treasury of the Government of the United Kingdom for the purchase of all the ordinary shares of the Company of which it is the sole shareholder.

Details of the offer: The offer is for the purchase of all the ordinary shares of the Company of which it is the sole shareholder at a price of 100p per share.

Procedure for tendering: Shareholders must tender their shares to the Company by the 31st July 1983.

Important dates: The offer will close on the 31st July 1983.

Shareholders should consult their stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor or other professional adviser immediately.

William Whittingham (Holdings) PLC, 10 Broad Street, London, EC4A 3DF.

David R. Brown, Director, William Whittingham (Holdings) PLC.

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Young Scot who stole thunder from big guns

From Mitchell Flint, Cologne

Ross Drummond, a former Scottish boy international, took the spotlight from some of the stars by sharing the first round lead with the American, Corey Pavin, in the \$66,000 German Open, sponsored by Lufthansa, on the Cologne course here yesterday.

Drummond and Pavin both completed rounds of 67, five under par, and they led by one stroke from a group of six players which includes Severiano Ballesteros and Paul Way.

On occasion, Drummond looks an extremely good prospect. He can strike together a succession of solid strikes, but then, out of the blue, makes the kind of careless error which will sabotage a score. He collected seven birdies on his way round the first course but he failed to take advantage of the long ninth and 18th holes because of wayward drives.

Pavin, who played for the United States in the Walker Cup in 1981, turned professional last September. He soon emphasised his potential by winning the South African PGA championship in January. Now, he is fast providing evidence of his winning capa-

Sparkes frustrates gallant McEvoy

By John Hemmery, Golf Correspondent

Peter McEvoy, twice a winner of the British Amateur championship, was yesterday once again frustrated in his attempt to add the English title to his credentials when he was beaten two and one by Ian Sparkes of Fendown after a brave recovery in the fourth round at Wentworth.

The comparative experience of the two players in the morning might have suggested that McEvoy would come fresher to the fray, since he had won his match at the 14th and had a couple of hours to spare before being called to the tee again. Sparkes had been taken to the 19th and was no doubt a little battle weary.

Sparkes must have been encouraged, however, to find McEvoy in such poor touch that he was five up at the turn. Nothing revived Sparkes' spirits more than a glimpse of glory and McEvoy gave his opponent that encouragement with a five at the third second, where he was bunkered and another at the third, where he like many another distinguished player before him, McEvoy putted up the slope to a flag perched just at the top and watched the ball trickle back to this fate.

The third hole was followed by three disasters for McEvoy. He could do little about the seventh, for Sparkes pitched to four feet, but the eighth and ninth will surely haunt him, the eighth called for a tee shot to the right of the fairway, allowing the ball to gather pace down the slope, but McEvoy drove the ball

Parkin's sail set fair

Paul Parkin, the British amateur champion, had to go to the 17th green to beat O'Sullivan, a five handicap, in the third round of the Welsh amateur championship at Southerndown, mid-Glamorgan.

Hospital here yesterday, Parkin, aged 33, had his right arm severed and suffered severe internal injuries when he walked into the propeller of a single-engine plane on Sunday.

Mrs Newton said that her husband would not come back to the game. She thinks he will become a commentator. Newton's condition is now described as serious but stable.

McEvoy: brave recovery

Dr Greenhough, the referee, spoke to the members of his four ball - John Chalk, David Dunk, Gene Borek and Kevin Morris - on the 11th tee after they had taken two holes and 40 minutes for the first nine holes.

Dr Greenhough had been much amused by the players' reactions... He spoke first to the British, who clearly felt that the Americans were to blame for the accident. He then turned to the Americans, who were told that the British were to blame for the accident.

Things did, however, begin to even up. One down after the 16th, Chalk and Dunk ultimately squared the game when Dunk held a nasty seven-foot putt on the last green.

RESULTS: First round and second round results: 1st round: 1. O'Sullivan 18, 2. Parkin 17, 3. O'Sullivan 18, 4. Parkin 17, 5. O'Sullivan 18, 6. Parkin 17, 7. O'Sullivan 18, 8. Parkin 17, 9. O'Sullivan 18, 10. Parkin 17, 11. O'Sullivan 18, 12. Parkin 17, 13. O'Sullivan 18, 14. Parkin 17, 15. O'Sullivan 18, 16. Parkin 17, 17. O'Sullivan 18, 18. Parkin 17, 19. O'Sullivan 18, 20. Parkin 17, 21. O'Sullivan 18, 22. Parkin 17, 23. O'Sullivan 18, 24. Parkin 17, 25. O'Sullivan 18, 26. Parkin 17, 27. O'Sullivan 18, 28. Parkin 17, 29. O'Sullivan 18, 30. Parkin 17, 31. O'Sullivan 18, 32. Parkin 17, 33. O'Sullivan 18, 34. Parkin 17, 35. O'Sullivan 18, 36. Parkin 17, 37. O'Sullivan 18, 38. Parkin 17, 39. O'Sullivan 18, 40. Parkin 17, 41. O'Sullivan 18, 42. Parkin 17, 43. O'Sullivan 18, 44. Parkin 17, 45. O'Sullivan 18, 46. Parkin 17, 47. O'Sullivan 18, 48. Parkin 17, 49. O'Sullivan 18, 50. Parkin 17, 51. O'Sullivan 18, 52. Parkin 17, 53. O'Sullivan 18, 54. Parkin 17, 55. O'Sullivan 18, 56. 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Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

A new image for Lancia

The new Lancia Prisma went on sale in Britain this week at prices ranging from £5,550 to £16,150. For a well-appointed, mid-range car, that outperforms most of the competition and is still pretty frugal on fuel. Those prices are the most reassuring evidence yet that Lancia (Fiat) is determined to support its new British concessionaire's comeback plans for the marque.

Lancia Italy denies that it is considering factory prices to Lancia, the Heron-owned company which acquired the Lancia concession from Fiat four months ago. It does admit however that it has considerably closed the gap between its normally much lower Continental prices and those in Britain.

But the big bonus according to Mr John Turner, the Heron director who is also Lancia's managing director, is that it will help Lancia's dealers to sell at such realistic prices that they will be able to stay clear of the new car discounting "jungle" which is depressing second hand car values.

Three versions of the Prisma are being sold here, the 1500cc manual at £5,550, the 1500cc automatic at £5,950 and the 1600cc manual at £6,150. The latter, powered by an updated version of the 1600cc twin overhead camshaft already seen in the Delta GT, is a very rapid car and a snip at the price.

It covers 0-60 mph in 9.9 seconds and has a top speed of 110 mph. That compares with 12.1 seconds and 109 mph for the BMW 316, costing £6,995, the Alfa



Lancia Prisma 1600: Frugal on fuel.

Guilietta with 11.8 seconds and 103 mph, costing £6,550, and the Audi 80 CL with 13.8 seconds and 99 mph, at £6,395.

In 200 miles of hard motoring in Scotland I was impressed by the Prisma 1600's robust power, tract handling, excellent brakes and comfortable ride.

But I do find the present Lancia styling to be a little bland and failing somehow to project the old Lancia image.

Smooth Sierra

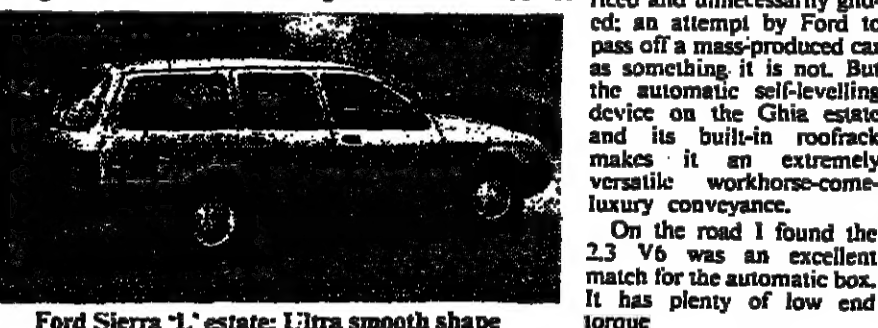
The days when estate versions of saloon cars were the "afterthoughts" with diabolical handling are thankfully behind us. Today, designers have both versions in mind from the start of a new car project. There is, therefore, a growing number of excellent load carriers on the market with another on the way this autumn in the shape of the long-awaited Cavalier Estate.

One of the penalties that still has to be paid, however, is the effect on steering, and therefore petrol consumption, of the estate car's blunt rear end. The result of all the eddies and disruptive air flow that creates can be seen in the speed with which Ford's new Sierra hatch back is one of the "slippiest" designs around: so much so

that refinement carries a price penalty. Sierra estates start at £5,770 for the L6 base model and rise to £9,395 for 2.3 Ghia 1700 cc. It costs £1,167 more than the standard 2.3 and Ford offers an automatic gearbox for no extra charge on both.

On the whole I am not enthusiastic about Ghia, believing them to be overpriced and unnecessarily gimmicky: an attempt by Ford to pass off a mass-produced car as something it is not. But the automatic self-leveling device on the Ghia estate and its built-in roof rack makes it an extremely versatile workhorse-comfortable conveyance.

On the road I found the 2.3 V6 was an excellent match for the automatic box. It has plenty of low end torque



Ford Sierra 'L' estate: Ultra smooth shape

Village Garage Offers
Kia, 4.2 litre 1982 (V6) Silver, 16,000 miles, 1500 cc, 1600 cc, 1800 cc, 2000 cc, 2200 cc, 2400 cc, 2600 cc, 2800 cc, 3000 cc, 3200 cc, 3400 cc, 3600 cc, 3800 cc, 4000 cc, 4200 cc, 4400 cc, 4600 cc, 4800 cc, 5000 cc, 5200 cc, 5400 cc, 5600 cc, 5800 cc, 6000 cc, 6200 cc, 6400 cc, 6600 cc, 6800 cc, 7000 cc, 7200 cc, 7400 cc, 7600 cc, 7800 cc, 8000 cc, 8200 cc, 8400 cc, 8600 cc, 8800 cc, 9000 cc, 9200 cc, 9400 cc, 9600 cc, 9800 cc, 10000 cc, 10200 cc, 10400 cc, 10600 cc, 10800 cc, 11000 cc, 11200 cc, 11400 cc, 11600 cc, 11800 cc, 12000 cc, 12200 cc, 12400 cc, 12600 cc, 12800 cc, 13000 cc, 13200 cc, 13400 cc, 13600 cc, 13800 cc, 14000 cc, 14200 cc, 14400 cc, 14600 cc, 14800 cc, 15000 cc, 15200 cc, 15400 cc, 15600 cc, 15800 cc, 16000 cc, 16200 cc, 16400 cc, 16600 cc, 16800 cc, 17000 cc, 17200 cc, 17400 cc, 17600 cc, 17800 cc, 18000 cc, 18200 cc, 18400 cc, 18600 cc, 18800 cc, 19000 cc, 19200 cc, 19400 cc, 19600 cc, 19800 cc, 20000 cc, 20200 cc, 20400 cc, 20600 cc, 20800 cc, 21000 cc, 21200 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